BUILDING A CULTURE OF RESISTANCE THROUGH CREATIVE AUDIO ACTIVISM.

PROVOKED *Infant in the Womb of Warfare* LP
Provoked is the direct result of gathering five of the maddest heads in Minneapolis into a single band (members of Scorned, Flux of Disorder, Deadstate, Pontius Pilate, etc.). Eleven tracks of raging, thrash-influenced, anarcho-punk mayhem, with strong female vocals and angry social/political

PHOBIA / RESIST AND EXIST split LP
Two veteran Southern California punk bands team up for the heaviest split release of the year! While Phobia blasts out grinding thrash, Resist and Exist rip it up with heavy-edged peace punk, and both bands meet eye to eye on the seriousness of their social-political messages.

V/A *Aftermath* CD
Twenty eight bands from around the world have donated their best new material for what will be the one of the most impassioned and powerful punk comps. Featured are: Damad, Axiom, Scorned, Abuso Sonoro, Brother Inferior, Reach, Resist & Exist, Sin Dios, Calloused, Fosca Macabra, W.O.R., Hellcrusher, Acursed, Doom, & more..

NAUSEA *Extinction* LP
The long awaited re-issue of this 1990 anarcho-punk classic! Angry male & female vocals venting rage over powerful often emotionally charged music from one of the founding bands of the modern anarcho-punk movement. The original pressings had a gatefold cover, but is now available with a Crass-style fold out poster sleeve.

DOOM *Police Bastard* 7"
Five songs recorded in 1989 during the same session in which they recorded their brilliant split LP with NO SECURITY. Considered some of their best early material, this record is considered a classic in most punk circles!

We've got a LOADED button maker and SHE AIN'T AFRAID TO USE IT!

Prices:	USA	Can/Mex	Eur	World
LP	$8	$10	$11	$12
CD	$7	$8	$10	$11
7" EP	$4	$4.50	$5	$6
Pin	$.50	$.75	$1	$1

No orders for just 1 pin please! Checks, MO's, well-hidden cash to: Profane Existence • PO Box 8722 • Minneapolis, MN 55408 • USA
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Anarcho-punk Resource Magazine • Free Worldwide • #44 • Fall-Winter 2003

PROFANE EXISTENCE

Making Punk a Threat Again!

As long as they keep destroying our world... We'll keep fighting back!

44

14-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

INSIDE:
- ★ Wendy-O Matik on responsible alternative relationships
- ★ Interview with ARISE!
- ★ Mexico tour report from Resist and Exist

P.O. BOX 8722
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55408 • USA
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#43 * FALL-WINTER 2003

EDIT-ERROR-ISM:
Dan • Maygun • Joe

A DAZZLING DISPLAY OF TALENT:
Contributors: Adrienne • Ben & Jeff of Resist and Exist • Brian • Chelsea Bondage • ciderpunk • 'Diamond' Doug • Emo Wuss • Jordan Menzies • Mollie Hatchet • Newt • Special K • Tacolypse • Zach

Yo sucka! Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the PE collective. Profane Existence would NEVER endorse any activity that may be illegal, immoral, or otherwise fun in any way.

100% MIDDLE-FINGER-IN-THE-AIR D.I.Y. PUNK ROCK!

Profane Existence Magazine is created by a volunteer labor force.

punk

Profane Existence is a product of and for the anarcho-punk community.

By anarcho, we are intentionally aligning ourselves with the struggle against capitalism and all hierarchical systems of domination and control. We work with, and reach out to, others who share in the struggle towards achieving a world free of domination and oppression.

By punk, we are referring to the grass-roots, counter-cultural movement that has been growing and developing since the 1970's. We are NOT connected in any way to the so-called punk rock seen on MTV or any other corporate-sponsored, commercial crap.

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Thanks to the generosity of our advertisers and donations, you may be lucky enough to get a copy free at your local info shop, record store, or punk rock gig. The rest of you unlucky bastards are going to have to pay to have it delivered!

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(PO Box 8722 / Minneapolis, MN 55408 / USA) cash preferred, or MO payable to "Blackened" USA, CANADA AND MEXICO: $2.00 (US) or 4 x $.37 U.S. stamps. Do not glue/soap your stamps!) Subscriptions are $8 / year (four issues)
WORLD-WIDE: Single copy is $3. Subscriptions are $12 / year (four issues)

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RUSSIA: Dmitrij / PO Box 30 / St Petersburg-9 / 195009

Look for additional overseas sources posted on the web site and in future issues.

"In truth we are all still as enthusiastic and supportive of the ideas of anarchism and the punk movement as the day we all started working on this project called Profane Existence"

The above quote was from Profane Existence #37 - the incorrectly named "Final Issue" of Profane Existence Magazine, December 1998. At that point, the collective had been around for over ten years and the magazine had been publishing for nine. During that first decade of PE, many people had joined their efforts with the Profane Existence, but just as many had felt the exhaustion of burn out as well. The years 1997 and 1998 were particularly hard for the collective and many long-time members had reached decisions to leave. Faced with a potential disaster - the collective voted to split up and go our separate ways.

Only 18 months after the publication of the so-called "final issue" two of the former collective members, Joe and myself, broke the silence . The publication of Profane Existence #38 took place in the summer of 2000, followed by #39 about nine months later. Having quickly distributed 20,000 copies around the world, it was evident that there was still a great interest in having Profane Existence Magazine around. However, a number of factors worked against us and it was not until Fall of 2002 until we could get back to any semblance of a normal publishing schedule. PE #40 was published, again with great success, and PE was back to a quarterly schedule, which has more or less been maintained since.

The past year has seen great strides made towards getting the collective back on track. Maygun joined as a new editor of the magazine for issue #41 and has stayed on ever since. Joe and I also decided to disband Blackened Distribution, which we created to help bail out PE's debts when the collective disbanded. We decided that our mission had been accomplished and we should simply go back to being one big collective. End Blackened Distribution as Profane Existence Distribution was reborn.

The Profane Existence record label has also slowly come back to life, first with the release of the PHOBIA / RESIST AND EXIST split LP and then the PROVOKED LP last spring. More new releases are in the works. These include a powerful new split 7" with CT's ANOTHER OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM and HUMAN WASTE from Sweden, currently being pressed. Also just recorded, is an LP from Minneapolis' GARMONBOZIA, which promises to be yet another top-quality PE release and our first collaboration with New Audio Terror Records. Also in the works are reissues of classic old PE material. Just repressed are some of the earliest and most famous Profane Existence Records releases DOOM's *Police Bastard* 7" and NAUSEA's *Extinction* LP. We are currently working on a rerelease of the STATE OF FEAR discography CD, which will feature new cover art from Marald as well as a more complete booklet, containing all of their artworks. Of course there are more possibilities for reissues on Profane Existence Records and they will be announced as time and money allows for them to happen.

In many ways, the collective is stronger than it ever was, but in other ways we are starting over from square one. Financially speaking, things are not so well. Gone is the most of the huge debt that PE once had. On the other hand, the collective is completely strapped for cash. Money to restart the record label was donated by me, as was about half of the cost of printing and distributing PE issues 40-43. In September I quit my toy business (www.brickmania.com) in order to devote more energy into getting PE going once again. This means I have no more extra cash to put into PE projects and suddenly it all has to pay for itself. A harsh reality for the collective for sure!

Some things are being immediately effected by this cash shortage. For example, this is the smallest issue of Profane Existence Magazine ever. With very little money available from the record label and distro (both things just getting started once again), it more or less has to pay for itself. With only two pages of ads, about 120 paid subscriptions, and only the occasional donations received, we have had to cut back on the number of pages for this issue. Even so, the cost of this issue will be in excess of $3000 to print and distribute 20,000 copies. Do the math and you will see that we are far short of covering all of that expense. We have enough money to pay for the printing, but postage is going to have to come from somewhere. Upcoming benefit shows will help pay the difference, but I feel that the magazine should become completely self-sufficient as soon as possible.

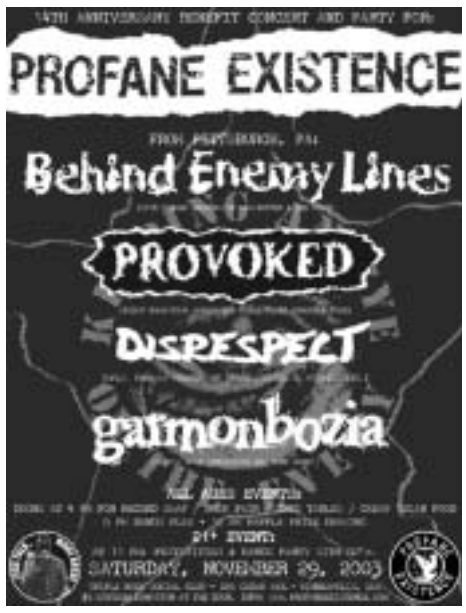
The only other area in which we can cut back to save cost is circulation. We are actually at the point where we have demand in excess of the 20,000 printed. However, we are struggling to pay for this many as it is, so expanding our print run is not being seriously considered at the moment. Instead, we are beginning to ration the number of copies that will be sent to overseas distributors. Cost for sending bulk bundles in the US is about $.5 per copy, but overseas the cost is more like $.15 or more per copy. With the exception of Canadian and Mexican distros, we receive very few donations for postage from overseas labels. Currently we send out over 1/3 of our print run outside the US, but we receive the fewest amount of ads and donations in return. We hope that this rationing will end sooner than later, but it will take support from people outside of North America to make this happen.

Aside from the financial woes, morale is high at the Profane Existence Collective. We are engaged in a lot of long-term projects and are looking towards making Profane Existence better than it ever was before. This is my 15th year of doing Profane Existence and this issue will be released within a week of the 14th anniversary of publication of issue #1. I am very excited to be doing this and I think my enthusiasm is shared by the rest of the collective. The incredible shows of support and solidarity from our community in Minneapolis and around the world has been just overwhelming. I'm sure my expression of gratitude speaks for the entire collective when I say thanks for your support over the years, especially when things weren't looking so good for us. Cheers to yet another year of MAKING PUNK A THREAT AGAIN!

—Dan, November 2003.

PE Benefit Shows Happening in Minneapolis and SoCal:

Celebrating the 14th anniversay of the publication of Profane Existence #1, we are holding a fund-raising benefit show in Minneapolis on November 29th. These will be followed by a series of similar benefit events around Southern California. Money raised from these events will go towards the continued publication and distribution of this magazine. We are looking to raise additional funds to print an updated edition of the book Making Punk a Threat Again, a collection of the "best cuts" of Profane Existence Magazine and other documents of the collective. We would also like to do a full reprinting of Take Back Your Life: A Wimmin's Guide to Alternative Health Care. Of course, we are also brimming with both ideas and enthusiasm for further printed projects along similar lines. Special thanks to all of the bands and people participating and hosting these events, J. Lee for setting up the Southern California events, and of course everyone who shows up to support this publication!



MINNEAPOLIS: Saturday, November 29th
ALL AGES EVENT: 4 PM: Doors open for book/distro fair & cheap vegan food. 6 PM: bands play: BEHIND ENEMY LINES, PROVOKED, DISRESPECT & GARMONBOZIA. 10 PM: Raffle for rare PE stuff. **ID EVENT:** 11 PM - 2 AM Dance party. $5 minimum donation at the door • $6+ donation gets you a 17x22" post of the event plus raffle tickets. At the Triple Rock Social Club • 629 Cedar Avenue • Minneapolis

SAN DIEGO: Friday, December 19th
ALL AGES EVENT - NO ALCOHOL: Event starts 7:30 PM: Record swap, bookfair, info tables, speakers, plus the bands HOLOKAUST, ARMISTICE, INHUMANE NATURE, and T.B.D. $5 at the door. At the Ché Café in San Diego (http://checafe.ucsd.edu/)

CORONA, CA: Sunday, December 21st
ALL AGES EVENT: starts 7 PM: Record swap, bookfair, info tables, speakers, plus the bands PHOBIA, RESIST AND EXIST, THE LAST PRIORITY, and AGAINST EMPIRE. $8 at the door. First 30 people receive free CD's and patches. $1 raffle tickets - Merchandise donated by Icons of Filth and Mortarhate Records. This event is at the Showcase Theater, 638 South Main St, Corona (909-276-7770)

BEFORE YOU CAN GET OFF YOUR KNEES... YOU GOTTA GET OFF YOUR ASS!

This magazine serves to document and aid the worldwide anarcho-punk movement. In order to have the most complete, international, and up to the minute coverage, we need help from contributors like you!

SCENE REPORTS: Please be as detailed as possible and provide addresses for bands, zines and other cool DIY punk happenings (venues, stores, mailorders, labels, etc.) We would also like some information on political activities punks are involved in. Don't forget to send photos!!!

NEWS: We are also interested in overall coverage of the events in your area and up to the minute news of resistance against fascism and all forms of oppression. You can also send us information about the group which you are involved with: squats, gig collectives, free spaces, action groups, etc. which relate to the subjects covered in PE.

LETTERS: We regularly print letters from our readers and welcome all feedback on anything printed in this magazine or otherwise important to the anarchist punk movement or the greater struggle against tyranny.

OPINION PIECES: Aside from periodic editorials from the P.E. staff and columnists, this columns and opinions section is open for general contributions of a nature relevant to the content of this magazine. In particular, we are looking for well-written, in-depth, and researched pieces for this section that concern current issues.

FEATURE ARTICLES: We will print well-written articles of a social or political nature that may not fall into our regular sections. All articles are welcome, but we will only print ones which we feel are most pertinent to the readers of PE.

FUCKING ALTERNATIVE - FUCKING PUNK ROCK: Articles and ideas for the "how to" section of Profane Existence Magazine are welcome. Please see this section for submission guidelines.

AD INFO: Bottom line - we accept ads to pay for this magazine. However, we will not print major label ads or any ads that we feel are irrelevant to the content of this magazine. Please send payment with your ad (checks to "Blackened Distribution") **Double rates for full color!**

1/2 page (7 1/2" x 10") = $400
1/4 page (5" x 7 1/2") = $200
1/6 Page (5" x 5" or 2 1/2" x 10") = $120
1/8 Page (3 3/4" x 5") = $90
1/12 Page (2 1/2" x 5") = $60
1/24 Page (2 1/2" x 2 1/2") = $30
Business Card = $40

DEADLINES: Ad deadline is the 15th of January, April, July, and October. Issue out the end of month.

Submissions may be sent to us by Email with the subject "PE Magazine" to blackened@visi.com or by mail to the Profane Existence address.

HELP SUPPORT FREE PRISONER SUBSCRIPTIONS!

We offer free copies of Profane Existence magazine to those held hostage by the state. We feel this free service is important, because most prisoners are not in a position to afford such luxuries as information from the outside. Because Profane Existence has been recognized as a resource for prisoner's struggles, we receive large amounts of requests for copies from prisoners. Please show your support of prisoner solidarity by donating generously to the PE prisoner sub fund.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRISONERS:

You have received this issue of Profane Existence because you have recently written us requesting a copy. In order to receive the next issue you must write back with a request for the next issue, as we currently lack the resources or means to maintain a permanent prisoner subscription list.

Off With His Head!

On November 5, 2003, George W. Bush signed into law the first ever federal ban on abortions. This so-called "partial-birth" abortion, a term made up by anti-choice fanatics and other women hating scum such as the Right to Life Committee, is just the first of the many anti-choice tactics Bush plans to force and manipulate to make abortion illegal. And all this an effort to push his religious beliefs on the general public and take away a woman's right to choose! Fight against this in your town- we can't let these bastards take away our right to decide what happens with our own bodies! Court challenges banning the implimentation of this law have already gone into effect in Nebraska, New York and California. Let's work to make sure Bush's baby agenda doesn't go any further. If he gets control over my body, I should have control over his...Off with his head!

MURDER...

IT'S THE REAL THING

The Coca-Cola corporation has undertaken a campaign of torture and murder, targeting SINALTRAINAL (National Union of Food Industry Workers) union leaders at their bottling plants in Colombia, South America. Hundreds of other Coke workers have been tortured, kidnapped and/or illegally detained by violent paramilitaries, often working closely with plant managements. Meanwhile - of course - the company denies involvement to protect their lily white corporate image.

Following is a list of union leaders at Coke plants in Columbia that have been murdered since 1989:
Avelino Chicanoy (Pasto plant, 1989), Jose Elaseasar MancoDavid, Luis Enrique Giraldo Arango, Luis Enrique Gomez Garado, Isidro Segundo Gil, Jose Librado Herrera Osorio (all at Carepa plant, 1994-1996), Oscar Dario Soto Polo (Monteria plant 6/21/2001), and Adolfo de Jesus Munera Lopez (Baranquilla plant, 8/21/02).

TAKING IT TO THE COURTS

A recent briefing from WWW.KILLERCOKE.ORG outlines a court challenge being made against the Coca-Cola Corporation:

"In July 2001, the United Steelworkers of America and the International Labor Rights Fund (www.laborrights.org) filed a lawsuit on behalf of SINALTRAINAL, several of its members and the estate of Isidro Gil, one of its murdered officers. The lawsuit and campaign aim to force Coca-Cola to prevent further bloodshed and to provide safe working conditions.

"Coca-Cola bottlers "contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that utilize extreme violence and murdered, tortured, unlawfully detained or otherwise silenced trade union leaders," the lawsuit states. It also notes that Colombian troops connected with the paramilitaries have trained at the U.S. Army's School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, GA, where trainees were encouraged to torture and murder those who do "union organizing and recruiting;" pass out "propaganda in favor of workers;" and "sympathize with demonstrators or strikes." This was made public when the Pentagon was forced to reveal the contents of training manuals used at the school. (For more information, see www.soaw.org, the web site of SOA Watch.) The year that the lawsuit was filed, The Coca-Cola Co. made $4 billion in profits and paid its CEO, Douglas Daft, more than $105 million. Coca-Cola continues to rake in billions each year, yet the frightening conditions at the Coke plants remain unchanged. Labor unions and human rights advocates in the United States can stop these atrocities at Coca-Cola's bottling plants."

RECENT ESCALATIONS

On September 10, 2003, at about 1 p.m. in a spot known as Simon Bolivar Blvd., (La Tienda la Esmeralda) in Barranquilla, Columbia, four unknown masked subjects pulled 15-year-old David Jose Carranza Calle — son of Limberto Carranza, a Coca-Cola worker in the city of Barranquilla who is the national director of SINALTRAINAL — from his bike and forced him into a white truck. They took him away and tortured him, asking the whereabouts of his father. At about 4:30 p.m., they dropped him off at a spot known as Canyon of the Ahuyama, where he was picked up by a man passing by and brought to the police.

Meanwhile, at the house of Limberto Carranza, they received a phone call saying: "Unionist son of a bitch; we are going to break you. And if you won't break, we will attack your home."

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

EDUCATE YOURSELF: There is plenty of information out there on the criminal behavior of the Coca Cola Company: Campaign to Stop Killer Coke (http://www.killercoke.org), United Students Against Sweatshops (http://nate.clar47.rhno.columbia.edu/usas/) and Colombia Support Network (http://www.colombiasupport.net)

PUBLICIZE THE CAMPAIGN: Let people know about the criminal behavior of the Coca-Cola Company. Petitions and sample letters to Coca Cola board of directors are available for download from http://www.killercoke.org or from United Students Against Sweatshops / 888 16th Street NW, Suite 303 / Washington, D.C. 20006 / Phone: (202) NO-SWEAT / Web: www.usasnet.org or you can write your own and send it to Board of Directors / The Coca-Cola Co. / PO Box 1734 / Atlanta, GA 30301.

BOYCOTT THE BASTARDS: Coke tastes like shit anyway, but they also produce products unter the name Sprite, Fanta, Nestea, Powerade, Swerve, and Dasani. Board members of Coca-Cola also serve on the board of directors for other huge corporations such as Sun Trust Banks (the second largest share-holder of Coke stock) AT&T, Avon, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chevron Texaco, Dell Computers, FleetBoston Financial, Georgia Pacific, General Electric, GlaxoSmithKline, Hilton Hotels, International Paper, Washington Post, etc...

REVOLUTIONIZE: This is just one of the latest in a litany of atrocities committed by multinational corporations and proof that they will use whatever means necessary to ensure continued profit. Coke? Pepsi? All their greed tastes like death. Letter writing, lawsuits and boycott will not prevent these people from committing future atrocities. Ultimately, the only way these greedy bastards will be stopped will be with the total destruction of the international [so-called] "free market" capitalist system they have created and exploited. ★

PAGE THREE PUNK!

This month's page three punk features an anonymous protestor in Thessaloniki, in June of this year, telling the cops what he thinks of the G8 masters they are protecting. Thanks to Angel for sending the pic (as well as the one on the back cover). Keep those page three punk photos coming and we might even send something if we print it!

ACTIONS • EVENTS • CALENDAR

BUY NOTHING DAY!

November 28 • Global day of action

Make up your own event, protest, store occupation, shoplifting spree, etc.

World Social Forum

Jan 16 - 21, 2004 • Mumbai, India

The World Social Forum is not an organisation, not a united front platform, but "…an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and inter-linking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo- liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a society centred on the human person". (From the WSF Charter of Principles). Website: http://www.wsfindia.org

National Conference on Organized Resistance

January 24 - 25, 2004 • Washington, DC

The 7th annual National Conference on Organized Resistance—a space for radical discourse and collective empowerment—is scheduled for January 24-25, 2004 on the campus of American University in Washington, D.C. Last year's conference featured nearly 70 workshops, panel discussions and skillshares, as well as tabling space for dozens of radical groups. During the weekend, D.C. also hosted political demonstrations, benefit concerts and radical parties. We hope that this year's conference will be bigger and better than last year!
Website: http://www.organizedresistance.org/

Ninth Annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair

March 13 • San Francisco, CA

At the San Francisco County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park at Lincoln Way and 9th. 10 am to 6 pm.

Fouth Annual BASTARD Conference

March 14 • San Francisco, CA

The Berkeley Anarchist Students of Theory and Reseach and Devlopment (BASTARD) will be holding the 4th Annual Anarchist Conference. The event will be held at New College, 777 Valencia St, San Francisco. 10 am to 6 pm.

National March for Choice

April 25, 2004 • Washington, DC
Main organzers: NOW

Information about radical part of this event to will be printed in the next issue of PE. For general info, visit the NOW web site: http://www.now.org

Anti-Globalization/Anti-capitalist Protests

April, 2004 • Washington, DC

Clear you calendar now - more info later.

G8 Summit 2004

Sea Island, GA • June 8-10, 2004

The G8 is coming back to the United States. Tens of thousands of people will converge once again on Georgia for mass protests against the G8, neoliberalism at home and abroad, and capitalism. Activists are already planning strategies and organzing for protests against the subjects. For a wide range of info and links, we recommend visiting:
http://www.infoshop.org/octo/g8_2004.php

2004 RNC Counter Convention

From August 30th through September 4th, the Republicans are invading New York City to nominate George W. Bush as their candidate for President. This is the latest convention in history and the first time a Republican Convention has been in New York City. Why host a convention in September? Why New York City? By exploiting our grief and trauma from September 11th, the right wing intends to further their regressive political agenda; an agenda the hurts New Yorkers more than anyone else.

Our protest must be diverse and representative of New York City, countering the false made-for-TV diversity within the Convention halls. Our protest should mobilize people across the country and planet, while making a special effort reaching out to every neighborhood in New York City, especially those who are systemically disenfranchised. Our message should be positive and forward thinking to counter the hateful, malicious and regressive policies of this administration. For the sake of our nation and the planet together we will make history.
info@counterconvention.org
http://www.counterconvention.org

LETTERS

Greetings from Los Angeles!

I think that people should take more precautions to protect themselves against police brutality. Frequently police officers remove their badges and ID tags. Often there is little proof when police attack.

I feel that we should take photos of ALL police officers stationed near shows, rallies, demonstrations, and protests. At least one person should be able to document and photograph nearby police PRIOR to the start of any public gathering. That way, if the police abuse anyone, there can be proof as to which police may have done it. I feel this is a practical precaution.

After all, police frequently videotape demonstrators. LAPD tortures people... WATCH OUT!

Peace and Justice, Lisa Mikoyan

Hi -

Enclosed are six stamps and $8.00 for my one year subscription... I'd also like to thank you for having a way for people to learn what's really going in this fucked up world.

Thanks - Billy

Hey Profane Existence.

You know that Clash song "City of the Dead?" That's my town. Nothing happens here. What's worse, the majority of this town's occupants are ignorant rednecks. Due to the lack of intelligence here, I have to rely on outside sources for knowledge and inforation. Mostly independent zines and music. Of the many zines I have read, yours is one of the most informative and I really enjoy readying it. Although I am disasapointed there are so few installments of Profane Existence over the years, it is well worth the wait.

This letter has more purpose than to kiss your ass and tell you how much I enjoy your zine. I meant to ask you for a subscription to Profane Existence. Here's $10. Keep the extra $2 for whatever.

Thanks and keep fighting! Sam

THE INCREDIBLE, SHRINKING PROFANE EXISTENCE!

This is the smallest issue of Profane Existence we have printed in our 14 years of publishing. The small size is due to increased demand, while financial support from ads sales has stayed flat. We would like to bring back the number of pages we have previously published, because we have once again been forced to remove content in order to keep the printing and postage cost within our means. Some ways you can help us achieve a bigger, better Profane Existence, are to subscribe, send donations, put on benefit shows, or take out an ad if you run a distro, label, collective business, etc. Thank you for your support!

More and more I've begun to doubt my belief that there is some inherent good in people. Maybe this belief was instilled because my parents taught me to have an optimistic outlook. Maybe I was too sheltered as a child. Maybe it's genetic. I don't know where it came from, but my rosy outlook is quickly fading. Now I'm left with my back against the wall, pissed off, and ready and willing to take on the fucking world!

Every day I can't help but see atrocities being committed in the name of the "American people," the pursuit of liberty, and never-ending free market capitalism. I can't ignore the fact that I am isolated and surrounded by a diabolical union of free-market capitalists, religious zealots, militarists and Jerry Springer trash. I feel as though am living in the hostile camp of those who all blindly support the policies of a megalomanic and liar named George W. Bush.

These same people obviously believe it's OK to first starve and then bomb the shit out of children on foreign soil. These people must believe that the assurance of having ready stockpiles of cheap gasoline and consumer goods are more important to our national interest than the lives of their own children. These people believe it's more important to save the lives of unborn children then to help the living. These people believe that it's a better national priority to put one in every 130 US citizens into prison system, rather than eliminating the root cause of crime: poverty, deprivation, and hopelessness.

The war drums beat on and more state controls are enforced throughout the rest of the country. The new Department of Homeland Security is headed up by the same man who pledged to uphold the death sentence of Mumia Abu-Jamal, suppressing evidence and testimony that he was innocent. Internal police forces are given more and more special powers to infiltrate, monitor, disrupt, prosecute, and imprison anyone they consider a terrorist threat. Huge databases are being set up to monitor and store electronically gathered information about the activities of average citizens. Secret watch lists are being assembled and disseminated airlines in order to limit travel of anti-war activists and other potential "terrorists." Right wing militia groups have overtly threatened to murder anti-war activists. Corporations, such as Clear Channel (who supported the rise of the current regime), have also maintained propaganda efforts in favor of it's policies...

If you don't think we're heading towards a new Nuremburg, consider the following. It was the bombing of the Reichstag in Berlin on February 27th, 1933, allegedly by a communist "terrorist," which prompted sweeping powers be granted to Adolf Hitler. After September 11, a similar "blank check" was granted to George W Bush by congress to prosecute the war on terrorism.

Abroad this meant an overt war against the Al Quaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan, where both military and civilians populace were targeted. Covert operations and assassinations have also taken place elsewhere against alleged terrorists. Very little was made of the fact that it US foreign policy that help create these forces in the first place. Nor was much made of the fact that the new government installed in Afghanistan headed by US-friendly oil executives. (It makes you wonder if the 1980's Russian invasion of Afghanistan, and the American training and arming of the "resistance forces", was really a war between superpowers over natural resources.)

The so-called "liberation" of Iraq was just the latest example of abuse of power by George W. Bush and his cadre. These people would just assume that you would forget that the allegations that the Iraqi regime gave money or supported Al Quaida or Taliban terrorism nor did they posses so-called "weapons of mass destruction" (incidentally another famous 20th century dictator excused his invasion of Poland under the pretext that it was his country that was attacked first - a proven lie).

In the US, the creation of the Department of Homeland Security is the most massive governmental restructuring in US history. The results will be a huge concentration of investigation, intelligence gathering, and enforcement of internal security powers, all into a single government department under the executive branch. The congressionally approved Patriot Acts 1 and 2 have further broadened the definition of terrorism and granted even broader powers to the government to prosecute it's "war on terror" at home and abroad. Now we are all being investigated by a faceless government bureaucracy and countless millions are signing up for the new government-approved snitch squads.

So if everything is as bad as I say it is, then where's the concentration camps you may ask? They exist, but out of the public eye in places like Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. At this location, more than 500 "suspected terrorists" have been held since shortly after September 11th. They are being held in a military prison, under authority of the Patriot Act, and receive none of the rights constitutionally granted to federal prisoners. Most have not been charged with any crime, but were singled out due to their Muslim background. There are other such camps scattered around the US, set up and maintained by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), ready for use in times of national emergency. During World War Two, such camps were used to hold interned Japanese-American people. Other camps were set up to isolate pacifists, anarchists, communists, and other "undesirables" from the general population. This was done under the pretext that they may disrupt or sabotage "business as normal."

Looking at all the bullshit going on makes reality far more scary than anything dreamed up by some crackpot conspiracy theorist. What is left for us to do? Buy guns, ammo, and crates of food and hide out in the countryside? Should we simply polish our guns while waiting for the inevitable late-night knock on the door? Should we gallantly go down in a hail of bullets while fighting the overwhelming might of the oppressive system? Is any resistance at all suicidal? At the rate things are going, there probably is no right answer to these questions. All I really know is that I have an obligation to myself, my family, and to the betterment of the world around me to stand up and fight back. It comes back to that little glimmer of hope - my optimism - that there is something good in people, that keeps me from total despair and agony.

The question of what is the correct strategy for waging such a monumental struggle has been debated in the "revolutionary" circles as long as there has been oppression. We live in times where the government has shown it will go to almost any length to repress all opposition. Given even the flimsiest of excuses, we have seen comrades singled out, harassed, isolated, imprisoned, tortured and even murdered for showing resistance. We have seen the government's willingness to murder civilian populations and assassinate "suspected terrorists" without due trial in a court of law. If we fight them with guns - they will destroy us. We must destroy their ideology of fear and domination and replace it with a culture of love, life, freedom, and continued resistance.

Our only real recourse is to establish decentralized-but-concerted, forceful-but-non-violent resistance (non-violence excepted in cases of self-defense). Many people making small contributions will be much more effective than isolated individuals undertaking desperate acts. A decentralized resistance movement will also be harder for our enemies to isolate and destroy us. Every punk show, from the smallest basement to the largest festival, should be a reaffirmation of our resistance and a celebration of our defiance. Every product of the punk movement is a potential fund-raiser for propaganda activities. This needs to go beyond our movement as well: bridges must be built, and relations nurtured, with people in other struggles against tyranny and injustice. With just a little effort by a lot of people, we can all work together and "Make punk a Threat Again" one little step at a time.

Two weeks back from my travels across the ocean, and my brain is a whirlwind of sights, memories, and experiences. 19 different cities in 6 different countries in six weeks. A fast-paced trip full of festivals, squats, trains, stunning cities, beautiful countrysides, loud music, late nights, and new friends passed far more quickly than I would have liked.

I am still trying to make sense and put order to all that I saw and experienced. I am in culture shock, in a way that I don't think will ever go away. I am at home, but home now feels foreign. I long for grafitti covered streets, brightly painted buildings, active communites and long standing squats that took us in and treated us as if these places were our home.

When I first arrived back in Minneapolis, I was frustrated, almost angry. How come we don't have expansive buildings that we can renovate and run info shops, show spaces, bars, cafes, record stores, bike shops, and screen printing facilities out of? Where are our world renound festivals that people travel across borders to see for four days of music, fire shows, hand-welded bars, dirt cheap vegan food, and more? Why don't our buildings have phrases such as "The street is ours!" and "The struggle is not between one group or tribe and another, it is between the upper and lower classes" painted in bold proud letters stories high for all to see?

I was corrected, when in a moment of my frustration, I vented to a friend that we in the states are not as organized in our efforts to create a truly alternative, active community. I was reminded that we are indeed striving to create a solid underground network. I have been reminded of it constantly, in the past few days, as we get ready to go to print on the zine, as plans come together for a Profane Existence benifit show at the end of the month, that will house tables of distros and infoshops, followed by four bands and a dance party. As Dan and I sat at the Arise! infoshop and interviewed an incredible collective that hosts a bookstore, resource center, movies, an organic garden, meeting spaces, and offices for progressive organizations. I attended a show last night at a relatively new show space, the bar and upstairs seating hand built, the walls covered in brightly painted murals, with good sound to boot! As I think of the numerous other collectively run coffee shops, bike co-ops, show spaces, food co-ops, Anarchist collectives, and independent distros that are run out of this city.

After the initial shock of coming back home, I have realized that we are indeed making a strong effort in Minneapolis to create the sort of society I want to be a part of. Traveling always opens my eyes to what else is out there, but I needed to come back and view with a new perspective all that we have right here at home. I guess my column this issue is just about that, about realizing and taking an active part in your community, to work to make it the kind of place you are proud to be involved in. And to not be discouraged about lack of activity, but to take an active role in seeking out that activity, and creating it yourself as well if it doesn't presently exist. And to realize that we are truly a part of a much larger network of people that spans the globe. That people far away are working with similar goals in mind, and that we should work together to make those goals a reality.

★★★A shout out, for lack of a better word, to all the friends and folks that housed us in huge squats and one room flats, that took us in and fed us, that put up with the smell that surely stayed longer than we did, that opened their houses, their fridges, their washing machines and bathtubs, that stayed up countless late nights and talked until sunrise. I miss you all, and hope you know the same treatment is yours for the taking if you ever find yourself here.

"Whoever you vote for, government wins."

So this statement brings up the question; to vote or not to vote? What is a conscientious punk supposed to do? For those of us who do not support 'the system' in place, isn't our action of voting an endorsement of that same system? In a "free and democratic" society like Western nations are supposed to be, what are our options? Is it better to vote so that the lesser of two evils wins, or is it better to just stay at home and not vote at all? Well, there are arguments for both sides of the issue; I just have a few suggestions to make. If both candidates seem pretty much the same, then not voting has its advantages. If you decide NOT to vote for someone, don't waste this effort by just not going to the polls. If you don't show up, the statistics deem you to be one of the apathetic who make up the population who did not vote without an explanation as to WHY you didn't vote. On the other hand, if you do show up and spoil your ballot, you get lumped in with people who are a little confused by the actual voting process and end up voting for everyone to win the election. If you want to make a statement, an option is to show up at the polling station, register, then destroy your ballot in full view of the poll workers and ask to have your ballot marked down as being destroyed. This does create a lot of confusion amongst the polling officials and in some places this action is illegal. What this does, however, is indicate that you as a voting member of the public, refuse to take part in an election that will only further a system of dominance by career politicians and their business ties. If this action is taken by a group of people, who knows, it could even draw minor local media attention and initiate discussion as to why voters would be willing to destroy their ballots. The important thing here, is to do SOMETHING if you decide not to vote. If you are unhappy with the way the system is set up, you won't achieve anything by sitting at home when others decide who will be in positions of power for the next 4 years. Make yourself visible and provide clear reasons why you are refusing to vote or destroy your ballot. If there is one candidate who is far worse than the others, then banners and signs near voting stations highlighting particularly heinous things about this candidate might have some effect on voters who are still undecided as they go to the polls.

There is something to be said for actually casting your vote when one of the candidates running is a real fucker. This is not an endorsement of the system, but rather a necessity when dealing with an asshole running in the election with a chance to win. It is completely pathetic to think that voting AGAINST candidates has become almost normal for most of the voting public in Western societies. This has quite obvious uses; noone wants another George Bush in power (father or son for that matter). In the case of George W. Bush however, it is easily argued that voting didn't seem to matter either way, and the election was stolen by those who had enough power to do so. In general, voting against a candidate can be effective at keeping a particular bastard out of power. Labor groups and unions, for example, frequently provide information to their members about one candidate's track record with regards to labor laws and societal inequalities. The recent provincial election here in Ontario, Canada saw the ousting of the conservative leadership who had systematically dismantled every social program they could get their hands on and who instigated the privatization of several provincially owned institutions. People voted against these assholes, with the goal of replacing them with slightly better assholes. In this situation though, votes were a useful tool against these ultra-conservative politicians. What probably swayed most voters' opinions was the years of protesting and information that was printed about these bastards. In the end though, they were voted out. I guess you could call voting an occasional realistic necessity.

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You can't break my spirit

I didn't want to fuck him. He was moving in and out of my body, his weight pressing me against the bed, his breath ragged and wet against my neck and all I could think was that I didn't want to fuck him. I had never seen him in a sexual context throughout our entire friendship. I'd never even had a moment of being mildly curious about what it might be like to be physically intimate with him. In fact, I had never really found him attractive at all.He wasn't even a close friend, more of a casual acquaintence I would run into whenever Spitboy was on tour and playing a show in his town or whenever his band was on tour and playing in the bay area. Which is exactly how I ended up in this situation in the first place. His band was playing Gilman Street and I'd run down to the show to see them play and to hang out. I ended up socializing during the show and didn't even watch them play. He even dedicated a song to me and I didn't know it until someone told me about it later in the nite. He and I talked a little bit at the show and after everyone had finished playing, a group of people headed over to a local punk house for an after show party. When it started getting late and people were still partying, I offered him a place to stay at my house.Since he didn't drink, I figured that it would suck for him to have to spend the nite at a house where people were getting increasingly more drunk and wasted. I hadn't been drinking that nite, so I offered him a quiet space to crash. We got back to my apartment and made tea, not really talking about anything vital or important, just general chit chat. I ex-

plained to him that he could sleep on the floor, but that I trusted him and would be comfortable with him sleeping in my bed. We got into bed, I turned my back to him and he curled up against me, his arm around my waist. I was fine with cuddling, so I didn't protest or ask him to let me go. His hand started rubbing my stomach and then moving toward my breasts. I stopped him and explained that I wasn't into having sex. That cuddling was fine, but nothing sexual. We laid back down again and he was quiet for a moment, and then his hand started rubbing my stomach again, moving towards my chest once more. This time, he also started verbally persisting. I stopped him again, but after a moment he started again. I'd stop, he'd start. Back and forth. Finally, I gave in. I succumbed to his pressure. I agreed to do something I did not want to do. It lasted for a couple of minutes, and then he rolled off me and I put my pajamas back on, curled up far away from him, and never spoke of it again until now.

Part of this column was inspired by Arwen Curry's column in *Maximum Rock N Roll* #247 where she addresses the issue of confronting rape and sexual assault in the punk scene. If you haven't read her article, please do so. Reading her article brought up a lot of questions for me regarding what women consider sexual assault and what they consider the life long burden of being a woman. The unwanted comments, the occasion anonymous grab at a crowded show, the drunken fumblings at a party... are these aspects of being a woman that we have all simply come to expect?If someone grabs a woman's ass at a show, is the band going to stop playing and is everyone going to stop the show and grab the offender and kick him out and tell him to never come back? Label him as someone who sexually assaults women and make it very clear that he is unwanted in the punk scene? Or does the show just go on. Unfortunately, I've been at many shows where a woman has received unwanted sexual contact and the show has always just rolled right along.

Reading Arwen's article also brought up issues that I've agonized about for a very long time. There are men in the punk scene that I know who have sexually assaulted women. There's the guy in the band that tearfully told me about how he had drunken sex with a girl in a front yard and she was crying and obviously not into it and he did it anyway. There's the guy who's all over MTV who told me about how he used to get girls wasted drunk and then fuck them. Or the guy who runs the record label who took my friend home when she was drunk and even when she said no to him over and over again, still forced her. She graphically described to me how she was saying no while he was forcing his way inside her body. These are men in bands that you would recognize in a heartbeat. Men that are high profile and respected in the punk scene. Men that write for the fanzines you read. All of these events that were shared with me happened many, many years ago and a couple of the men expressed deep remorse, regret, and guilt over what happened. So is that a reason to keep silent? Will these men be banned from the punk scene and made to suffer as the women they assaulted suffered? As far as I can tell from all the times that this issue has come up within the punk scene, no. No, they will not suffer. No, they will not pay a price. No, they will not lose any of their esteem and worth within the punk scene. No, they will not be ostracized and punished.

In my situation that I described to you earlier, all I had wanted was to cuddle. To have a friend sleep over and to get a chance to talk and offer him a safe place to crash and for both of us to comfortably fall asleep. Instead, I was manipulated and coerced into having sex with someone that I have never wanted to have sex with. I could have punched him, slapped him, screamed for help, shoved him out the door, asked him to sleep on the floor... I had options. But I was weak and he pushed his way into that weakness until he got what he wanted. I think about all the women out there who have struggled to find their voice to say no. The women who have said no and had it disregarded. The women who have passed out drunk at parties and woken up in the middle of being raped. The moments when we are vulnerable, and that vulnerability is exploited. The times when we are weak, and that weakness is used against us. I get so discouraged and upset, wondering how this can be brought to an end. But I also think about the times when the women I know have been stronger then I have ever imagined a human being could be. When the word NO has been screamed out into this world for everyone to listen to and respect. When women have refused to be victimized, refused to be manipulated. I embrace the times when we as women move through this world with a powerful strength and grace that radiates from us like shock waves. Living through my experience taught me that I never, ever want to feel that way again. It taught me the power of saying no and gave me the strength to find a way to say no and make it stick. Since that experience, I have never allowed anyone else to manipulate me into having sex. That when I say yes, it's because I want to say yes. I wish I had never lived through that sexual experience, but I have taken that pain and turned it into anger. I have taken that weakness and molded it into strength.

peace/equality, Adrienne

There's a new movement in the punk scene today aimed at motivating punks to vote. You've probably heard about it as its starting to get some media attention. The organization is called PunkVoter.com and their goals are "to activate punks and other disenfranchised young people to participate in elections, to expose the chaotic policies of George W. Bush and his current administration, and to build a coalition of informed voters who can individually and collectively influence public policy."

Their website goes on to say that they want to educate, register and mobilize over 500,000 of today's youth to vote against George Bush in the 2004 federal elections. They want to get punks engaged in politics and evolve the movement into ousting Bush from office. There are concerts, promotion campaigns, and voter drives planned for the next year across America.

The website is well-written, punk-styled, and full of facts against the Bush administration and the war in Iraq. Its slick, but articulate in the history of the punk. Bands such as Crass, Subhumans, and Minor Threat are all cited as influences. A few folks I have admired over the years are even involved.

What is missing from PunkVoter.com is any condemnation of the alternative: the Democrats. Quite the contrary, this group actually encourages punks to vote Democratic.

PunkVoter.com claims "that if 537 more punks in Florida would have voted for Al Gore in 2000, that Bush wouldn't even be in office." Featured columnist Jay Bentley (of Bad Religion) says "a vote for any third party in a presidential election, is not a solution or a statement against the current government. It is most likely a wasted vote, and quite possibly a vote for the candidate you oppose."

I couldn't disagree more. If these folks actually think voting Democratic in the Federal elections is the solution to the problem, then all I have to say is (in my best Rob Halford imitation), "You've got another thing coming!" That's right. Here's where the talkin' ends. It doesn't even matter who the Democratic candidate is, a vote for the Democrats in Federal elections is merely a vote for the status quo.

Sure, Bush is an asshole. Most punks and a lot other Americans agree on this. But encouraging the punk scene to vote Democratic is naive. A Democrat in office will really just get you more of the same: wars will still be waged, the rich will still get richer, large corporations will still be pulling the strings. Remember, it was Bill Clinton who signed the legislation that allowed Clear Channel to monopolize radio in America.

If anything, PunkVoter.com should direct their efforts to get punks to vote against the two-party system. Third parties and independents don't have a chance in Federal elections because the multi-corporation conglomerates keep them out of the game. A motivated grassroots campaign to break the two-party system could be successful in the long run.

An inspection of the PunkVoter's supporters reveals why they want you to vote Democratic. Its a virtual who's-who list of (gasp!) corporate cheeseballs in the punk scene! Green Day, Bad Religion, Good Charlotte, The Offspring, Blink 182, Foo Fighters, Pennywise, Sum-41, and 53 others are funding and participating in the campaign. Seventeen record labels have signed on, including Epitaph and Lookout. Plus there are a whole slew of punk-wannabes on major labels coattailing along. Need I even comment on this irony?

I'm all for encouraging the poor and disenfranchised to register and vote, and I certainly make sure I cast my ballot wisely in local elections. But when it comes to Federal elections, that is an entirely different story. My vote will be a protest vote against the two-party system and I oppose punks, or anyone else, who says the Democrats are the answer to the Bush problem.

I'M NEVER GOING TO KNOW YOU NOW, BUT I'M GONNA LOVE YOU ANYHOW" -ELLIOTT SMITH

It was his tattoo that caught my eye. Before I even knew anything about him or his music, I knew I would fall in love with him. As trite and naïve is that may sound, it is the truth. In fact, my heart swelled beyond belief when I put the needle on that slab of vinyl and heard the very first note he plucked. He was unlike anyone I'd ever heard before. There isn't a single person who could compare to that man. I knew then that he would hold a place in my soul for the rest of my life.

It's funny that a mention of a name and then a candid photo of him and that damn tattoo would send me down a road of bittersweet romance. More sweet than bitter, more honest than all the others. It was the longest relationship I'd ever been in, but sadly not long enough.

So many people knew Elliott Smith without ever having met him. I find that when one speaks of him, it is as if they are talking about a close friend. A quality very few people can master, though it came natural to him and not even of his intention. It was his bare bones humanity that drew the crowds. He spoke the words that no one dared. So simple yet so profound. Brave and shy, a walking contradiction with good intentions, much like his tattoo of Ferdinand.

Have you ever heard the story of Ferdinand? It is about a fighting bull that didn't want to fight, but instead sit under his favorite tree and smell the flowers. It was my favorite book when I was a child. I couldn,t possibly fathom then that this story would have such an impact on my life. It,s just a tale about a bull going against what bulls are supposed, to do. Trying to live simply, trying to be happy, and ironically, fighting against what has been taught to him without fighting. Much like myself and much like Elliott with his tattoo of Ferdinand smelling the flowers. The story of a bull and the story of a man, though I wish to hell that he would've kept fighting.

There is such a mystery surrounding Elliott Smith's suicide. How could one not question a self-inflicted stab wound? How could one possibly commit this onto himself?! It is devastating, I am in shock. And of course there are all the tales being woven: he punched a cop, damaged nerves in his hand and could barely play guitar anymore, he just completed his best album yet and couldn't fathom topping it, he just got out of the hospital for a mental meltdown— I don't know what to believe, and honestly none of it matters with him gone. A solid chunk has fallen off the earth, something so real, so beautiful and pure yet poisoned. The most human of humans who couldn't bear to be human anymore.

And what am I supposed to do now? Where do I go from here when the one person who I sought for comfort and solace kills himself?! The tales that he has spun will only fade further and further into the distance. He will be remembered by some and others will never even know that he existed. Tragic and romantic, much like his music. Why did he have to be so real?

"I'm never going to know you now, but I'm gonna love you anyhow." Those lyrics echo eerily every time I think of him. The acoustic he strummed spoke more truth than I hear spew out of anyone,s mouth on any given day. I always joked how I'd marry that man someday, but I realize I never had to meet him to know him. Elliott was the closest I'd ever been to anyone through music and writing. He was every emotion amplified, every feeling. He had the power to create the most despairing and desperate scene and yet end with the tiniest flicker of hope, the kind that curls up one corner of your mouth. He found something sacred and human in our pain. This leaves me realizing it so much more with his death.

At the risk of sounding cliché, Steven Elliott, Smith, you will be remembered. Anyone that knew you or was a fan of your music will carry the gift and uniqueness of you with them for the rest of our their lives. Your short 34 years on this earth have left such an imprint on our time. You were the universal voice of human sensitivity and brave enough to express it when we simply can't. I miss you. I miss you. I miss you.

Elliott Smith- 1969-2003

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I had thought that sake would be just some weak shit that I could dump down my vegetable pad Thai with. Not so-sake is definitely some tough alcohol, and I could find myself well down the road to what a lot of PE readers know as "getting fucking pissed." I was amazed at how well this warm wine in a small ceramic bottle was kicking my ass. To be honest, I was a little pissed off at this. Usually I'm a diehard, whiskey-and-beer man. I'm not an alcoholic, nor do I party hard like I used to when I was younger, but I can hold my own at the keg party or at the bar. But tonight all I could do was take small sips of sake and grimace while my date for dinner was sitting across the table and laughing her ass off.

I'll give you a little background info here: One of my best friends out here in Cincinnati is an older woman named Shirley, most notorious around these parts for the bar she owns that bears her name. I'm not sure exactly how Shirley and I became friends, or what I did to deserve her taking me out to dinner on my birthday. To say Shirley has a fucked-up sense of humor would be a crass understatement. I can't count how many times I've been talking to girls in her bar and had her sneak up behind me, grab my dreads and say something like "He's my bitch" or "I'm gonna ride Doug all the way to the border." This is especially funny since Shirley is as lesbian as the day is long.

Anyhow, we headed back to the bar after I finally got the candy out of my ass and finished off the miniature bottle in front of me. Being that it was about 9 o'clock at night, Shirley's was pretty mellow. Over the course of the next hour I noticed that the place was slowly filling up with people I knew-some that I see every day, some I hadn't seen in a while, and then the infamous drunks from Sunday night karaoke. It was when Shirley disappeared for a while and came back with her hair dyed blue that I realized that this was turning into a surprise party of sorts for this humble PE columnist. I couldn't figure it all out. I'm not one to ignore my birthday, but then again I'm also not one to spread it all over town. Usually I'm pretty content to chill out and maybe go out to dinner when January 12th comes around, but I knew 2003 was going to be a little different, with Shirley's packed full of people and beers being shoved into my hand faster than I could drink them.

I look back over the events of the night and they still seem almost surreal, kind of like it was all too over-the-top to ever have actually happened. I remember standing up on the small stage for a round of embarrassment before the karaoke started-some joker had taken a picture of my face and blown it up, making about twenty copies that were all mounted on paint stir-sticks, giving the illusion that there was a crowd of Dougs standing in front of me. After that Shirley invited people to take turns at the microphone and tell their favorite "getting in trouble with the Diamond" story. *Then* there was the birthday cake shaped like a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon, and let's not forget the "stripping nurse" (which actually turned out to be my friend Gabe… thanks buddy!). And of course there was the obligatory karaoke session, and the subsequent mangling of everything from Rod Stewart to Night Ranger. And after all the mayhem had ended, I had a ride home and some carryout that I couldn't touch because the night had been so balls-to-the-wall, and definitely more birthday than anyone should legally be allowed to have. I was reminded of some whacked-out version of "This Is Your Life," only I don't think they had beer on that show.

People that aren't from Cincinnati get blown away when I tell them my favorite place to hang out is this crazy-ass lesbian bar on Vine Street, just down the road from the iridescent green monstrosity known as the Mad Frog. I'm not sure if Shirley's even qualifies as a "lesbian" bar any more, since a lot of punks and other freaks have taken to hanging out there. I do know that the vibe there is unlike anywhere I've ever visited on any sort of regular basis. There have been times where I've walked in there ready to kill and left feeling like a champ just because the folks there simply won't let you leave in a shitty mood. Shirley and Karen (her daughter, who works the bar most nights) have such an uncanny love for the crazies that come in there-they have definitely busted ass for me, from helping me out with a beer when the money is tight to getting me out of jail. This doesn't even count their letting me put together shows at their bar and being extremely cool about it. And if doing all this wasn't enough, they still feel the need to throw a wild party whenever myself or one of their other hardcore regulars has a birthday.

I wrote this column about Shirley's mainly because I thought it would make a good story, but more so in that I think people (especially punks) tend to get really ghettoized and become unwilling to spend time outside of their safe little circle of friends. I've met so many mad heads from going to Shirley's, and it's all because I had enough guts to just wander in there one night after work. I catch myself writing a lot lately about being 30 and not having a lot of material possessions (records don't count), money, a house, or whatever. But I do have an onslaught of wild-ass friends waiting for me to come swaggering through the door at Shirley's, and that makes me rich as fuck.

As always, keep it mad as hell… Diamond Doug / 1970 Westwood Northern Blvd. #5 / Cincinnati, OH 45225. Like I said, they are awesome as far as having new people around. Traveling bands/people are encouraged to drop a line. No jitters or tough-guy hardcore, please!

I almost fucking died, yet again.

This time though, I must admit, it was fun. We (my friends German, Pablo and I) were spinning out in my car going about 80mph. Pablo's in the passenger seat having just knocked out a few moments ago. He wakes up and says in a groggy voice, "Hey dude, uhh, what's going on man?"

"Oh were spinning out," is my very chill answer to his question.

"Oh cool man," says un-phased Pablo. German says nothing because he's asleep in the back seat.

We were returning from San Francisco after having experienced probably on of the best night of our lives. A show at 924 Gilman with Municipal Waste, Voetsek, Caustic Christ, Agents of Satan, Strung up, and CAPITALIST CASUALTIES!!! Dude I couldn't believe it when I heard it. I had been into this kind of music for years now and all the bands I loved dearly had broken up just before or just after I started to hear about them. So I couldn't miss this show, not when the f'ing Capitalist Casualties are playing. So I quickly packed my car up with some good food and some good friends (Clyde and Chris along with the above mentioned minions), and onward we went.

A couple hours of getting lost, joking around and eating some stolen Cliff bars finally arrived at our destination. The second we pull up we meet some folks from LA (Christ and Brit from Raw Tofu, and the most amazing Linda). Badass! So introductions are made, small talk is exchanged, I smell the bay area air and into the club we go while Chris goes to get beer.

Going through the doors of this club must be one of the most spiritual experiences of my life. Shit I went to the Vatican and passed through the Porta Santisima (Holiest Door), that they only open one day every two hundred years and it cleanses you of your past present and future sins and I didn't feel shit. Maybe because I'm not religious, well— maybe when it comes to punk I am. The graffiti on the walls, the smell of so many years of awesome shows, and the incredibly friendly staff was just fucking inspiring. And to be there with people I care for was ten times as awesome. When I got my membership card I felt like an orgasm in the flesh. The environment was so positive too, I felt drenched by it. Vegan baked goods were being sold, all types of punks were around and not fighting or in their stupid little cliques, good punk tunes blaring from the speakers. And needless to say all the bands that graced that stage that night were incredible. Sigh.

I needed this. For some reason I had been to too many mosh metal shows, one at which I got socked in the face and was told to "Go home," if I couldn't hang. I just recently separated with my partner and wasn't really doing to well with the lack of companionship. School and work were stressing me out and I wanted to do something new. I needed a break from the mundane. So road trip it was!

So I told my folks I was going to a show in Ventura (about an hour and a half from where I live) and that I would be spending the night at my friends' house there. They bought it. I knew I was going to cut it close on time since German and I had to come back early the next day but I didn't care. I was intoxicated (Get it?? I'm straight-edge— whatever) with the idea of going to Frisco.

So the show was on and everyone was having a blast. I was running around with my camera and video camera acting like a fucking tourist documenting everything as much as possible during the crowd surfing and whatnot. I was a damn happy fool. I ran into a friend (Jon!) from where I live that moved down there and hung out a bit.

After the show we all (Christ and company along with my homies) decided to go to the after party bonfire at the beach. That didn't happen because we got lost, so we backtracked to Gilman. We were all starving and we had run out of the supplies I had brought for us. So dumpstering the very nearby Odwalla factory was the best option we could come up with.

We pull up and members of our party who shall remain nameless climb underneath the fence to see if there are any trash bins around. Much to our dissatisfaction there were none. So everyone gets out but one who decides to see if one of the delivery trucks are open. Bingo! It is! Quickly more of our outfit crosses the fence and begins to take out merch! Dude this day rocks! We scored! We make out with four huge jugs of pure orange juice and tons of vegan chocolate bars! Hells yeah!

We head out to a place we were going to crash at while Christ and company go take a fellow comrade home. Were watching movies 'til 5 in the morning and they finally meet up with us. We all grub and hang out. Recount experiences of the show and the night. Funniest one is Clyde getting knocked in the head by the Municipal Waste singer. Well, it was funny to me at least. We say our goodbyes.

Clyde and Chris decide to stay while Pablo, German and I head out. We drive a while and I start dozing off so we pull over and pass on the wheel to German. After a couple of hours he starts to pass out so the driving is placed upon my shoulders once again. German lays down in the back and is out cold in a minute. Pablo falls asleep in the passenger seat next to me. I put my face to the cold air conditioner to wake myself up. I blink and feel the tires skid. I slam on the breaks going 80mph. Not a good idea. We veer to the left into the median which luckily was an open dirt area. We spin out and Pablo asks whats going on. We cross back onto the freeway ass backwards and clear it. Then—I hit a fucking pole. Shiza!!! I'm dead. My parents are gonna freak!

Find out what happened after by emailing me at ilovepunkrock666@yahoo.com

Check out my site at www.geocities.com/ilovepunkrock666/SoCalPunk.html it has a video distro (and a guestbook!) and I am proud to say I have this show in my collection.

Take care of yourselves and one another. Sergio

ARISE!

Continuing our series of interviews with local collectives, this issue we feature members of the Arise! bookstore and resource center. The space houses a variety of resources, including meeting and work spaces, community bulletin boards, and radical bookstore. They also publish a quarterly journal in which local and international activism is featured. Arise! has received a lot of attention in the local crap media during the most recent Gulf War. Read on to find out more. Dan and Maygun representing Profane Existence. Bob, Norman, Marigold, and Cristina answered questions for Arise!

PE: First just start with a general history of Arise! The history of the collective, basically we are wondering if somebody could explain the reason for opening a resource center.

Marigold: None of us were around then, when it was opened.

Norman: That was ten years ago.

Marigold: But why do we keep it open?

PE: What makes it for each of you personally, what is the important thing going on here, that you like to see happening?

Bob: I guess for me it's that it exists, it has four walls, and anybody can walk in the front door and immediately get involved. I moved here from Sioux Falls, and within two weeks I was volunteering here, and then within a month after that, I knew of plenty of different places I could get involved with. It's kind of a connection, a hub point.

PE: You mean as far as other groups?

Bob: Other groups, stuff that is going on, if you are in a town that doesn't have a central location to discuss these things, to figure it out, it's hard to get involved, because everybody has their small little groups.

PE: How long ago did you get involved with Arise!?

Bob: Almost four years ago.

Norman: I was actually just saying today that it's been at least a year now, probably about this time last year. But like Bob was saying, you know, people come here and they ask questions about where they can get cheap housing, or different things, and you can help them out, and it's nice that they have a place that they can go to and ask questions, and you have different resources where you can say "hey, check this place out". And you can get connected with different people. Like, I volunteered at a bunch of different animal rights groups, but they were just so centered on one thing, and it's like here, you got every different kind of organization and people and you find out what other things are going on instead of just focusing on one main issue. And I like that actually better, myself.

Cristina: I've been here about a year and a half, I like people coming in here and being like "Oh my god, there's nothing like this where I am from". I canvassed for a while, and I would tell people they should come into Arise! they have everything that you would need.

Marigold: I've been here off and on for about three years, I just recently started being more committed. I worked at some other collectives, and I like how there is all different kinds of people here, we are a resource center, there does seem to be a need for people to have a place to check their email, to find information that they wouldn't find in other places, and also just to use the phone, after they hitchhike into town.

Norman: It's a place for people to go, if they don't have anywhere to go they can come and hang out and read books, they have somewhere just to chill for a couple of hours. We're open everyday, nine to eight.

PE: What sort of resources does the space provide?

Marigold: Well this whole library on this wall is an historical library, it's not a lending library, it's just here for if people want to read these books. There's the telephone, the internet, there's file cabinets full of resources, mostly press clippings about a lot of Irish focus, civil rights focus, I don't know why we keep it. Maybe we are afraid that someday all those things will be missing from history, and we'll have proof they really happened! (laughter)

Norman: We have a kitchen, we can make tea and coffee. People tend to do that, they come in here and cook up a bag of ramen.

Marigold: We have this meeting room.

Bob: We also have a full on permaculture garden in the back, where there is food every summer. There's herbs and kale and broccoli, tomatoes, and anybody can come at any time and grab whatever.

Norman: And people like helping out, they come and help out with planting.

PE: Is that in the driveway area?

Bob: It was all torn up in the last three years, and it's all fertile soil back there, all organic.

PE: And the store, the book store, that's part of the center as well, right?

Marigold: Right, but it's not exactly a resource...

PE: Well, it is, I guess it depends how you look at it. I mean you can't really find too many places where you can find alternative literature.

Bob: We also provide meeting spaces here for really cheap. Organizations will come and meet here maybe once a week. And we also have office space; the Women's Prison Book Project has been renting an office here for years. They have the space and availability to be able to send books to women prisoners, where most prisons can't receive books unless they are from a book distributor or a store, so it's kind of an alliance there that they are able to do that. There's plenty of men's book projects out there but I think they are the only national women's prison book project.

PE: So there's actually offices here in this building?

Bob: Yeah.

PE: How far does this span, do you guys have the whole building here?

Bob: Yeah-

Marigold: The building is currently owned. There were three people that bought it originally, two people were bought out, so there is currently one owner who is a member of the collective. We want the collective to buy the building in some way, but because of various reasons we can't get a loan in a bank to buy the building. But it is essentially owned by the collective.

PE: So are there pretty much activities going on here day-to-day?

Norman: I would say at least once or twice a week. Sometimes people only need the space for a month or so if they have a conference coming up. Other groups use it regularly.

Bob: Twin cities free radio, Green Party, Minnesotans for United Ireland, Women's Prison Book Project. There's some book clubs that happen every week for six weeks, we try to do around three of those a year.

PE: Is there a set political ideology that you try to follow in allowing people to use the space? What is the policy on that, who decides?

Marigold: I'd say that we would want the groups to at least agree with our mission statement and our purpose. It's generally anti-racist, anti-classist. As far as meeting space, I don't think we've ever had to decide like "should we allow this hate group?"

Norman: There's collective meetings here every Friday where people vote on certain issues. If someone had a problem they could voice it at the meeting.

PE: Are there a lot of set responsibilities in the space?

Norman: You are supposed to have a list of things that need to get done every shift. Some people do them more than others, and some people don't. Some people make up for others. It all gets done. we are trying to work out the bugs, and get volunteers that know what they are doing.

Marigold: Ideally we have a committee structure. I am on the volunteer coordinating committee, there's a maintenance committee, ordering, Arise! journal, fundraising, and publicity.

Bob: It's really informal, if you want to get more involved, you do, and no one is going to stop you. But if you work full-time, or go to school, you show up for one shift a week for four hours and that's all you're really asked to do, that's like the floor, but the ceiling is as far up as you want to go.

PE: So has the journal always been an essential part of the collective's activities? Was there a journal at the onset of the resource center?

Bob: I think there was the Arise! newsletter, which was like a front page and back page, then there was the Arise! newspaper, which was a little bit higher of a production, and then about four years ago, the Arise! journal was started, and that's when we changed the format to a more formal production that we have four times a year from now on, which is I think a good goal to go for, because it keeps people informed about what is going on, but at the same time, it's not day to day current events, but it keeps it known in the community that we are still here.

PE: But it's run by people from within the space, it's not like a separate entity?

Marigold: Financially it supports itself, with advertisements.

Norman: And every collective member is encouraged to write something, and then we can agree on whether it makes it in or not.

PE: What other activities or events outside the space is the collective involved in?

Cristina: Sometimes we do tabling at shows or events, or for fun.

Norman: We have a monthly list of events and conferences that are going on, and try to get people to volunteer to table at them. That's another source of making extra money for the collective. Bob did one last night and made a lot of money.

Bob: Over a thousand dollars! in like a half an hour. We are a part of a larger organization, the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, where it's 52 different peace and justice organizations that work together to promote their own organizations. Once a year, they have their annual peace celebration, that was last night, and all the organizations had tables there, and we were selling the book of the author that had a book signing. Trying to get out into the community and table to get that information out there, because a lot of people in the community don't rush in our doors to buy stuff.

PE: Do you find that a lot of people don't know this place exists?

Norman: Yeah a lot of people don't know, or say "is that place still open?"

PE: So you said that the magazine finances itself through ads, but how is the space itself financed?

Cristina: Just barely!

Bob: By a shoestring...

PE: So you guys are basically paying off a mortgage to the one collective member?

Marigold: And for a long time, I don't know if we were paying rent, were we?

Bob: Yeah, it's basically that certain people paid for the building, and after a certain time, those people needed to be paid back, so there was some reinvesting work done by the people that had money involved, and since that time we have been paying $700 a month towards that, and so theoretically in 8 years, the collective should own the building.

Cristina: And it will fall apart the day we get the deed. (laughter)

Marigold: But paying property taxes and all the repair costs has been rough over the years, and recently the group repaired the roof and saved a lot of money doing it ourselves. So please don't sleep on our roof! (laughter)

PE: Has that been a problem?

Norman: Yeah, it has. It's easy to get up there.

Bob: I think it was about a year and a half ago that there was a Rainbow gathering in the Midwest, and it must have gotten on some listserve somewhere that it was OK to sleep on our roof, I think that was the end of the roof. It was basically caving in, once it got to be fall and started raining, there were leaks all over the entire building.

PE: During the most recent war with Iraq, an article in the Star Tribune quoted the Hennepin county deputy as saying that Arise! was on a list of potential terrorist organizations. What was the collective's response to this?

Cristina: More specifically we were called a domestically identified group which may or may not affect the community. So basically, any group with more than three people. Basically, all of the groups that had been grouped in with those right wing organizations, Us, Students Against War, Anti Racist Action, we had a meeting down here. And representative Keith Ellison came down here, and he threw us a press conference at the capital. All three of us groups were there. It went really well...and we made a lot of money off it.

All: (laughter)

Bob: We were on the front page of the Southwest Journal, there was a response in the Star Tribune, the Fox news investigator guys, they came down.

All: (laughter)

Norman: The phone was ringing a lot, people were asking so many questions, you could just tell they were from a newspaper, trying to get a quote off you.

Cristina: There were some sketchy people coming in here, trying to see if we did bad things.

Norman: Exactly, trying to see if we had certain books.

Cristina: Like "how to make methamphetamines".

Arise! Statement of Purpose

1) We support the struggles of oppressed and colonized peoples for self-determination. Self-determination is a fundamental right to be obtained through whatever means necessary, including armed struggle. Imperialism and the nation-states' militarism which permits and encourages it must end.

2) We support the right of all people to vote and organize political parties without censorship or fear of reprisals.

3) We support an end to economic inequality. There can be neither peace nor freedom in a world where millions starve while a few live in luxury. All individuals must have access to the necessities of food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare. People have the right to coltrol their pwn workplaces and working conditions; the products of work must be directed toward the social good, not corporate profit.

4) We support an end to all racism, including anti-semitism, and to discrimination based on ethnicity, language or religion. The forced assimilation or acculturation of minority groups is cultural genocide.

5) We support the equal rights of women in all areas of life: political, economic, social and domestic. Discrimination against women, violence against women, and the denial of reproductive choice to women are incompatible with human freedom.

6) We support the equal rights and equal protection of lesbian and gay people in all areas of life. All domestic partnerships (not just heterosexual marriage) must be given equal legal status, and all laws which criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults must be eliminated.

7) We support the preservation of the environment, in a reasonable balance with the needs of humans. This means establishing a decent and sustainable standard of living for all, while guarding and maintaining the earth for our descendants and the other species which share it with us.

8) We support the right of people to practice their religious and cultural traditions without interference, except when a particular practice is incompatible with basic rights.

9) We support free inquiry and free expression, limited only bu fundamental considerations of human rights. Neither states nor economic nor religious powers have the right to censor.

10) We support the liberation of all people victimized by our society, be it due to their age, ability, class, race, gender or sexual preference. Human diversity must be respected and cherished, not suppressed.

Arise! Bookstore and Resource Center
2441 Lyndale Avenue South / Minneapolis / MN 55408 USA / 612-871-7110 /
www.arisebookstore.org / paarise@mtn.org

Norman: Oh yeah, that book...that guy was calling us forever!
Bob: Some of the journalists that came in like the main question they wanted to ask was what our views were on violent protesters and property distruction. There were so many times that you just had to say, like the scripted thing "we are a bookstore and resource center, we do not promote the breaking of windows at Starbucks"
All: (Laughter)
Bob: So many times, finally it was like you are not going to get a good quote out of this, because we don't promote property distruction.
PE: But you had a lot of people coming in, like from the exposure, to buy books and stuff?
Norman: People wanted to come and check it out. People wanted to make sure, thinking "Oh my god a terrorist organization in our neighborhood?!" I mean a guy came in here the other day when I was working and said he thought we were something along those lines, and he said "Oh, I'm just checking it out, I live in the neighborhood, and I heard some crazy stories about this place"
Bob: There was one person that came in here and said that they read the Southwest Journal article, a school teacher from the southside, and said that what that article said about us saying that we are being treated unfairly, the teacher decided that this was a place that he was going to come and shop at.

PE: Are there any signs that The Man has been monitoring the space or any of the people involved? Did you even know prior to this article that anybody had these intentions?
Bob: I think that what Arise! is, there's going to be a minimal amount of surveillance anyway.
Marigold: I assume that every word said here is recorded. I just operate under that assumption.
Bob: You don't say anything stupid, and if you do, you apologize to the walls...
All: (Laughter)
Bob: Get it on record, because, well, you never know.

PE: Have there been any other times like that where the space or the collective has been threatened or negatively publicized?
Norman: I wouldn't say negatively publicized, but back when Sara Jane Olson got arrested, people were coming in then and asking questions.
Bob: I guess there was FBI surveillance then. It was way before any of us were involved here.

Dan: Was Arise! always in this space? I remember it being in a different location.
Marigold: It was in a different location originally.
Bob: It was in the Wedge building, before the Wedge owned the whole area, but it didn't turn out to be a very good location. So it moved here, and instead of paying rent, they had to buy the place, because they couldn't sustain the store and pay rent.
Dan: Yeah, this used to be some Democratic politician's headquarters.

PE: Why is it important, in your opinions, that the activist community support institutions such as Arise!?
Marigold: To have a place to talk, to get together.
Bob: In the bookstore sense, it is getting harder and harder to be an independent bookstore. The only reason Arise! is still open is because it's all volunteer. We couldn't afford to pay one person minimum wage. But, like, Barnes and Nobles, Borders, they aren't going to carry titles by AK Press, they aren't going to carry Southend Press-unless it's Noam Chompsky, and they aren't going to have those authors there to speak to people. It just wouldn't be available to people, except in libraries. No place else is really going to do it. I mean, locally there is Arise!, MayDay books, and there's Ruminator books, and a few other independent bookstores.
Maygun: There's Amazon.
Bob: Amazon too, that's right.
Dan: Not to be confused with Amazon.com
Maygun: Right...I meant the good Amazon.
(laughter)
Marigold: And also because we are able to make available zines and other independent press that otherwise people wouldn't be able to find. And we allow consignment on art that people want to sell here.

PE: I think you really hit on something, when you said that people say "wow, I wish my town had one of these places".

The Women's Prison Book Project

The Women's Prison Book Project (WPBP) provides women in prison with free reading material and resources covering a wide range of topics from legal and education to politics, fiction, history, and women's health. Founded in 1994, WPBP is an entirely volunteer run organization.

Although there are other prison book programs across the country, WPBP seeks to meet specific needs of women in prison by providing materials on families, kids, women's health/self-help, queer issues, and legal aid resources for women serving time for fighting back against their abusers.

Currently there are more than two million people in the US jails and prisons. that's the highest incarceration rate in the world. There are also over 100 political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States. Both of these numbers will continue to increase as the war on drugs rages on, the construction and management of new prisons becomes a lucrative business, and repression against progressive movements intensifies. Racism and the criminalization of poverty are the main forces behind the skyrocketing numbers of people under the control of the prison system.

WPBP seeks to form connections and provide support for women in prison, and to educate those of us on the outside about the realities of women's lives in prison. As part of a growing movement working for systematic change of the justice system, we seek to create a critical discussion about the role of prisons in our society.

For more inforation write or visit:
Women's Prison Book Project c/o Arise Bookstore
wpbp@prisonactivist.org / www.prisonactivist.org/wpbp

Cristina: I grew up in Mound, and before that an even smaller place. Yes, I do wish that there had been a space like this there when I was growing up.
Bob: We wanted to start one up in Sioux Falls, 7 or 8 years ago, and just the thought of it was all it could be was paying rent on some crappy space, and maybe having free stuff and one book order in every couple months. It wouldn't be well attended there. I guess there is enough of a progressive community in Minneapolis for it to actually exist so whenever I drove up from Sioux Falls, I'd stop here. A lot of people do. It's interesting places like this, and like Extreme Noise, every major city has them, so everybody that lives in small towns go to, and it's all independent. There are independent music networks across the world. You can run into someone in say, Eastern Europe, and they know of this sort of space. Everybody in my neighborhood doesn't even know about this place.
Maygun: I know what you mean, I worked Friday nights when I volunteered at Extreme Noise, and you could always tell when there was a big show or out of town band because it would get really busy, or when kids would come in and their parents had dropped them off, you could tell that they had never been into a record store like that before in their life. It was really cool to see.
Norman: Yeah, and when people come in from other similar spaces from out of town.
Bob: Just yesterday there was three people from Mondragon in Winnepeg, Canada. An hour later two other people walked in, they hopped off a train, I asked there where they were from, they said "Oh, Nova Scotia". How did you find this place? The Slingshot organizers have national and international contacts, so independent music and bookstores and places to go, so when traveling, all you have to do is open it up, and you automatically know where to go. Usually stays up to date for a few months, then goes out of date.
Dan: It's the nature of this sort of space, it's hard to keep anything permanent. Especially when it's volunteers.

PE: Do ever find that offensive stuff has been thrown in the magazine racks outside, like really commercial stuff?
Norman: No, but every crappy indy band comes through and puts their flyers up here. I just take those down...
All: (Laughter)

PE: Well, what can we expect from Arise! in the near future? Do you guys have any exciting plans?
Marigold: We have a winter sale coming up in the first week of December. Everything in the store is 15 percent off.
Bob: We usually have an accordion player for a while, punk rock Aaron came in and played tuba for a while. He did a cover of a Sepultura song one time, people were in here shopping for books, and he's playing Refuse and Resist. Hopefully he can come back, because that brings everybody in!

PE: Have you guys ever done a show in the space?
Marigold: There have been various things that have happened out back, but it's just really too small to be a show space. It would be nice.
Bob: We had one live band show out back, where Garmonbozia and some other bands played back there, but I think the neighbors weren't too into it. We do show films back there and stuff.
Norman: Someone was mentioning off and on about having a movie night here.
Marigold: This is the only open room (the meeting room).
Norman: It can get kind of cramped in here during meetings. Sometimes there are this many people, sometimes there are three times this many people.
Bob: Yeah there can be a collective meeting when there are 8 people and when there are 35 people, and we only have 30 people in the collective! There is a lot of people who come in and are interested in checking it out.
PE: Are the meetings open to the public?
Norman: We want new collective members to attend a meeting before they get involved.
Marigold: If you are going to become a new volunteer, we usually have people show up before a collective meeting, and hear about what kind of obligation they would have to the store, and then they can sit in on the meeting and get introduced. Eventually, if you want to volunteer, you can get a taste of the meetings.

PE: Is there a process to join the collective?
Marigold: We just actually solidified this, though we are still working on it. You come to an orientation before the meeting, then get introduced to the collective, then get training, and then you have to work 6 shifts out of two months, with no more than two unexcused absences, and then you come to a meeting and request to be part of the collective. You are supposed to write a letter, post it on the bulletin board, everyone sees that you will be voted on. Not a lot of people are able to come to the meetings since they are all volunteer, but if someone is going to have an objection to that person, they can have somebody vote for them to not allow that person into the collective.
PE: Is it consensus then?
Marrigold: It is, for new members, for getting somebody out, is a different story. We recently had to deal with that for the first time. We had to decide how we wanted to that as well. If we can't get consensus, basically if we ask somebody to leave and they won't leave, then we have a procedure where it gets put off to the next meeting, people can vote absentee ballot, and then two thirds majority can have the person removed from the collective. We never had to deal with that before, it was a little dicy, people are like we're kicking someone out? But it was a very disruptive situation and we tried different ways to deal with it over a number of years.
Dan: I think every collective runs into that eventually.
Marigold: But if somebody wants to become a collective member, it's really a lot easier than it sounds. And when you become a collective member, you get a 20% discount, and then a key.
Bob: And the status of being an Arise! collective member...
All: (laughter)

PE: Is there anything else you want to cover? Or to blurt out, to have in print?
Bob: I think, in reference to the last question with the future of Arise! that it's just important for us to stay open. I just read that the A-zone in Chicago closed down again. Infoshops, it seems like 10 of them open up a year, and 9 of them close down, and the one that does stay open seems to move every couple of years, so it's impossible to keep the network going, and so it would me nice if there was a solid info shop here, Madison, and Chicago, and different places so you can start organizing regionally for demonstrations and stuff like that. It just needs to happen. It's all financial. Most towns don't have the support from the community. We are really lucky here, but I know that a lot of people around the country read Profane, so people should keep on trying.★

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REDEFINING OUR RELATIONSHIPS

AN INTERVIEW WITH WENDY-O MATIK ON RESPONSIBILE OPEN RELATIONSHIPS

Revolution comes in many forms. Through the things that we do and the words that we say, we can all strive to create a revolution within our hearts and the world at large. Wendy-O Matik is a special kind of revolutionary woman. Through her book, Redefining Our Relationships, she explodes the stereotypical relationship norm that binds and suffocates us all. With her poetry, she exposes a rawness of emotion and provocation of thought that is intensely inspiring. Wendy-O has traveled the world doing workshops, poetry readings, and discussion groups with a dedication that few in the punk scene have been able to maintain. With passion, determination and strength, Wendy-O is working on burning this system down. [Interviewed by Adrienne Droogas on September 13, 2003]

PE: How can love be a revolutionary, political act?
WM: Before you can change or improve the world, real change starts within yourself. When you can radicalize what's in your mind, body, spirit, and heart, then you can change the world with everyone you come in contact with. Radical Love, as described in my book, Redefining Our Relationships: Guidelines for Responsible Open Relationships, seeks to challenge patriarchy, the media, and our coerced social constructs of a relationship by imagining a non-hierarchical approach to love. As you redefine large concepts like love, intimacy, sex, and relationships for yourself, you begin to disrupt the shackles of status quo that limit and restrict us from having healthier and more satisfying connections. To love openly and without limits is revolutionary because it challenges the social fabric of conformity and status quo. To love radically is to take control over your right to love the way you decide, based on your needs and desires.

PE: For those unfamiliar with the term, what does an "open relationship" mean to you?
WM: If it's okay, I would like to refer to my book. An Open Relationship is a radically different, re-defined relationship outside the status quo, where partners encourage non-restrictive paths of love while remaining seriously committed to their primary partner or partners, friends, and lovers. In theory, open relationships seek a non-hierarchical form of love.

PE: What makes you choose a non-monogamous lifestyle?
WM: I'm an activist of the heart. I have always felt as if I have an enormous capacity to love everyone—the homeless guy down the street, the little old lady next door, someone I just had a 5 hour mind-blowing conversation with, and then of course, my best friend, family, and the rest. When I finally was able to admit to myself that I have a human right and obligation to myself to love as many people as I wanted or needed, then I became aware of how a monogamous relationship, outlined by society, was never going to work for me. I would never be able to conform. Radical love, or the freedom to love as many as you desire, became a way of life.

PE: What are some of the misconceptions of polyamory?
WM: Open relationships are not just about open sex. There are a thousand or more ways to be loving with someone—sex is the easy part. It's being creative enough to actively commit to being a loving person on a multitude of levels (i.e. cuddling, holding, listening, love letters, the exchange of inspiration and so on) that separates you from the norm. An open relationship has less to do with sex and everything to do with consent, honesty, consequences, dispelling of feelings of possessiveness, being supportive, and communicative. I'm asking people to be aware of their own stereotypes of what an open relationship means. You are free to define your relationship any way your heart desires, so long as personal respect and integrity are at the core.

Another misconception for those new to open relationships is the issue of commitment. Responsible open relationships require the truest adherence to commitment to the future of any and all relationships. Non-monogamous individuals are not necessarily "swingers" looking for an easy lay or sex without strings. In fact, open relationships do not function at all without all parties involved making a commitment to honesty, communication, patience and hard work. Non-monogamous partners are simply willing to engage in deeply committed, deeply serious relationships with more than one person, such as a primary partner, friend, lover, or pen pal.

PE: Sex is an important aspect of relationships. How does the sexual dynamic differ when a relationship is open?
WM: That's a great question. The topic of sex is the most singled out issue for anyone who is skeptical about open relationships, which is why I purposely tried, in my book, to redefine our notions of sex or sexual intimacy. I'd like to read from my book again, under my definitions, Making Love equals Being Loving: anything and everything that you put your heart into, including intercourse, a hand shake, kissing, a love letter, a peace offering, S/M, art, music, masturbation, fetishes, fantasies, a phone call, a warm embrace, whatever pleases you, whatever feels good, the sky is the limit.

> "OUR BELIEF IS THAT THE HUMAN CAPACITY FOR SEX AND LOVE AND INTIMACY IS FAR GREATER THAN MOST PEOPLE THINK—POSSIBLY INFINITE—AND THAT HAVING A LOT OF SATISFYING CONNECTIONS SIMPLY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HAVE A LOT MORE." EASTON & LISZT. THE ETHICAL SLUT: A GUIDE TO INFINITE SEXUAL POSSIBILITIES

Whether you're in a monogamous or non-monogamous relationship, you're still free to set boundaries. Sex might be one of those boundaries that you may decide, within the framework of your relationship with your partner, friend, lover, pen pal, whether sexual intimacy is permitted or not. For instance, in an open relationship that has two primary partners, both of you will negotiate if you want to share lovers, or if you want to refrain from sexual contact, but kissing, cuddling, and love letters might be okay. These guidelines are always re-adjusting and re-negotiable.

PE: How can the ideals within your book be applied to the punk scene?
WM: As a punk myself, raised with a certain amount of consciousness and awareness of being different, thinking differently, living differently, it only seems natural that I would love differently. Punk ideals have always strove to think, question, be aware, and to not conform to social pressures. I think that radical love and alternative relationships are definitely on the minds and hearts of a lot of us. My book addresses the feminist and anarchist aspects of love, from a punk perspective. Good luck trying to find a punk perspective on love and relationships; most books sound either new-age or very '70s free love. I hope the punk or alternative scene will find in my book a voice and perspective that they can relate to.

PE: Your book is done completely DIY. What was the process of getting it published?
WM: The process of self-publishing is too huge to explain in one sitting. So I would encourage people who are really interested to take a class or seminar, that's what I did. It gave me the framework and basics. I would also recommend a book by Robert Bowie Johnson, titled Publishing Basics. It's great, concise, but thorough.

My experience has been one of beg-borrow-&-steal. Mark at Regent Press in Oakland, who taught the self-publishing seminar, became my mentor, helping me get discounts on paper and answering my millions of questions. Another friend, for beer and a burrito, printed it. Punks with Presses gave me the killer discount on covers. My graphic artist friend, Eve, sat for countless hours and hours working on layout and artwork, in exchange for vegan dinners and organic produce. I even made friends with a great bindery who kicked me down the kick-ass discount. All in all, the book couldn't have been possible without the concerted effort of other punks and friends. I also organized a show with artwork, bands, and spoken word in order to help cover some of my expenses. Get creative!

PE: Do you feel society stigmatizes polyamory? If so, why?
WM: Any ideology or theory or concept that goes against what society has ingrained upon us always risks being stigmatized or discredited. When you go outside the status quo and put forth a lifestyle that the major of society doesn't agree with, then they feel threatened. That threat translates into shunning or putting down an alternative viewpoint. Loving as many people as you want, expanding the capacity of your heart to make every connection meaningful, having multiple partnerships, and imagining the potential in yourself to have more and more deep, powerful relationships with your friends, your co-workers, your family, well, I guess that's enough to stir up some trouble with some folks.

PE: What are your thoughts on jealousy?
WM: I think of jealousy as a guidepost emotion, as discussed in my book. Like the onion analogy, everyone feels certain degrees of jealousy but when you peel back the layers of the onion, when you really take the time to re-examine where the emotions around jealousy are stemming from, then you expose a much deeper inner core of personal issues, like insecurity, disappointment, fear of losing someone, fear of abandonment, even co-dependency. Jealousy is a unique window into what's going on within us. Most people revert to blaming the other person, and never take the time to really look within. I truly believe that examining the roots of your jealousy, without blaming and punishing others and with lots and lots of practice, can lead to longer, more healthier, and more fulfilling relationships.

PE: How can a friendship be considered a relationship?
WM: When we expand our notions of what a relationship is or has the potential to be, then we begin to see how every meaningful connection, platonic or sexual, is a relationship, including friends, family, pen pals, even your pet. Again, this gets back to our preconceived notions that a "relationship" involves sex. This implies an unsaid hierarchy, as if your sexual connections are more important than your friendships. When you commit to honoring all your relationships, whether you are intimate with them or not, then you indirectly begin to think and act outside the box, outside Hollywood's notion of a relationship, outside what your parent's instilled in you. This is revolutionary. You may discover that you would prefer marrying your friends. You may decide to make a pact with your best friend to grow old together, to take care of each other's children, to be committed like life-partners.

> "THE MOST VITAL RIGHT IS THE RIGHT TO LOVE AND BE LOVED." EMMA GOLDMAN

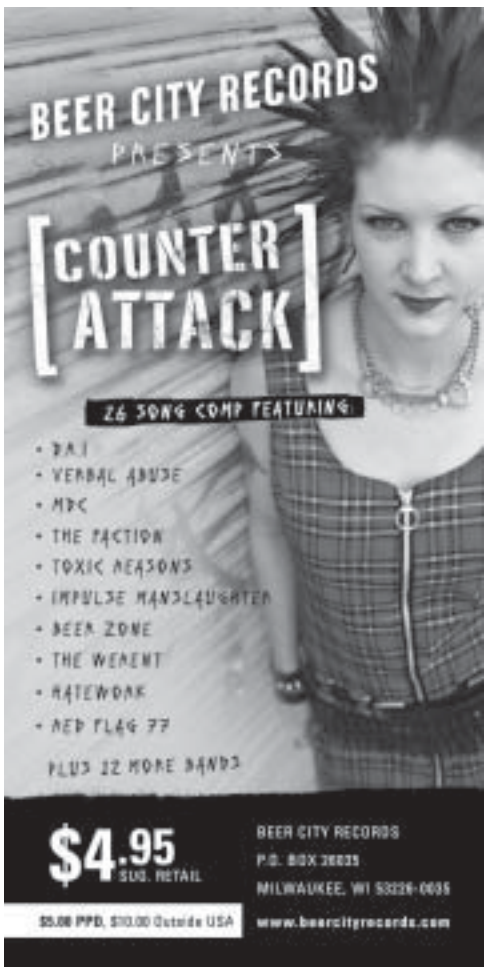
PE: What are some of the most important dynamics in creating a healthy open relationship?
WM: A responsible open relationship has to be built on a foundation of trust. How you build that foundation is different for everyone. For example, one polyamorous friend of mine said that he and his partner (and lovers) have a mutually agreed upon contract that gets revised and readjusted a few times a year. As outlined in my book, Honesty and Communication and setting down agreed upon guidelines are some of the keys to having a lasting and healthy relationship of any kind. When something doesn't work or is becoming stagnant or has led to mistrust, then each person commits to re-evaluating the rules and being creative about how you make it work.

PE: What is the greatest joy that non-monogamy has brought into your life?
WM: I was writing about this in my journal the other night. The truth is every time I give love, my capacity to love expands. In some ways, the way we know we can't have too many friends, well, we can't have too many lovers either. It's simple math: when you love one person, the love you feel for someone else doesn't diminish or disappear. Love can be one hell of a great drug! Sometimes I feel like where other people are busy self-medicating on their path of self-destruction, I'm trying courageously and vulnerably to voice the importance of desire, passion, stirrings in the heart, love, emotion, and the importance of meaningful connections with every single person you meet. One of the most important benefits of a 13-year open relationship, that ended last year, has been the single fact that I had nurtured and fostered other outside relationships that were and still are deeply passionate, deeply intimate, all along. So when my primary partner left, I had an amazing, supportive, caring network of lovers and friends and family who were always there. I have exercised my heart in ways that most people would run scared. I'll live and die as a woman who lived her life on her own terms, set by her own standards, and free to love who I want and how I want. I want to look back on my life when I'm 80 and feel good about all the love I gave, and not how I restrained myself or put up walls or held back for this or that reason. This kind of pursuit of personal freedom has brought me a lot of fulfillment in my life.

Please check out my website at www.wendyomatik.com. And support an independent, woman's small press distributed through Profane Existence. A sincere thanks goes out to everyone's support, and extra hugs to Adrienne and Dan.

BOOKS ON POLYAMORY:

Skin: Talking about Sex, Class & Literature by Dorothy Allison
Polyamory: The New Love without Limits by Dr. Deborah M. Anapolis
The Ethical Slut: A Guide to Infinite Sexual Possibilities by Dossie Easton & Catherine A. Liszt
Breaking the Barriers to Desire: New Approaches to Multiple Relationships by Kevin Lano & Claire Parry
Living My Life: An Autobiography by Emma Goldman
The Traffic in Women and Other Essays on Feminism by Emma Goldman
Lesbian Polyfidelity by Celeste West
The Lesbian Polyamory Reader by Marcia Munson & Judith P. Stelboum (eds.)



★ NOISE ★ NOISE ★

ABDUCTEE SHIT DISTURBERS- s/t 7"
Abductee SD are a female trio from Sweden. Four songs make up this 7" with vocals from each member intertwined and overlapped. Their sound is mid-tempo, sing along, anthemic punk. Songs in Swedish and English with topics ranging from sexual harassment to eating disorders to female empowerment. (Hatchet)
Communichaos Media / Box 825 / 10138 Stockholm / Sweden

A GLOBAL THREAT - *Earache/Pass the Time* CDEP
Perhaps not as musically mature as their later releases, but nevertheless AGT has notoriously catchy punk anthems with a message. Six songs with obvious influences from the Boston punk scene (most notably The Unseen). Blazing guitars accompany just about every song, but are always well-placed and never last too long. (Zach)
Rodent Popsicle Records / P.O. Box 1143 / Allston, MA 02134, USA / www.rodentpopsicle.com

ANTICHRIST/INTENSITY - split 7"
Antichrist are a heavy as hell metal influenced Hardcore band from Poland that tear through 3 tracks on this split. The evil vocals are done in Polish, but the lyric sheet has English translations so we can enjoy their right on political comments. On the other side we have INTENSITY. What can I say that hasn't been said before about this fine Swedish Hardcore band? They grace us with 4 tracks of what they do best, well executed thrashing Hardcore Punk rock. Nuff said. (Ciderpunk)
Trajuca Fala / P.O. Box 13, 81-806 Sopot 6 / Poland

ARGIES CD
Decent street punk-sounding stuff from this Spanish band. This is all right, but I personally dig a little more rocking out when it comes to stuff like this. Not terrible, just nothing going on with this disc really grabbed me. (Doug)
PO Box 546 / Randolph, MA 02368

THE AWAKENING/ VIRGINIA BLACKLUNG - Split 7"
Some mean ass screamo core. How many times will I use that term in my reviews? Too many. Anyways, groovy material from THE AWAKENING. Bike songs and the like. The Blacklung belt out some fast blasts in the same style with a very cool pro bike and anti-war/agribusiness message. Comes with an extra goody. Sea of Steel #3. A biking zine with some very touching and hopeful stories as well as some very helpful info on acquiring a bike. (Emo Wuss)
Ed Walters Records / 2416 S Warnock St / Philadelphia, PA 19143

BBS PARANOICOS/ EMS - Split 10"
BBS hails from Chile and do some really good Fat Wreck Chords style poppy punk sung in their native language (all hail Spanish!). The ten songs on their side come off of previous releases. EMS, or rather EGO MEANS SURVIVAL, are anarchists from Austria that broke up a bit ago yet left us with some very cool mosh metal laced punk. Consume this sucka. (Emo Wuss)
Bloodshed / 666 Alfred Wihalm Rehau / 5 3340 Waldhofen / YBBS Austria

BOXED IN s/t 7"
This bands features ex-EMBITTERED and SAWN OFF personnel so you pretty much know what you're getting into here. BOXED IN play fierce fastcore, extremely raw and hammering and keeping in the fine tradition of its members' previous bands. Fucking ace! (Doug)
Busted Heads Records / Box 275 / 901 06 Umea/ Sweden

TWO DAYS OF FREEDOM / THE BRICKS- split 7"
I am a huge fan of Two Days. Though the production is kinda muffles on the recording, this Savannah band knows how to drive that emo/thrashy point home. But I don't want to limit their sound to a particular genre that would deter some from hearing them because I like them so much. Manic acoustic intros, strained/sung vocals- just great stuff! The Bricks side is fast, cheap beer hoisting punk rock. Some sounds like Toxic Narcotic. Not my general interest but good at what they do nonetheless. (Hatchet)
Hyperrealist/ www.hyperreaslist.com

BUTCH MEIER *Skymarshall* 7"
Butch Meier (called "the God of country" by many) and his band hail from St. Pauli, Tennessee and play a rousing style of honky tonk / country and western. The title song is a rousing anthem about the tough guy life of Butch Meier and the life that led to him becoming a Skymarshall, an often thankless task of quietly protecting airline passengers in the skies. The rhythms barrow heavily from Glen A. Larson, Gail Jensen and David Sommerville's hit *The Unknown Stuntman* as sung by Lee Majors. The B-side *Moustache Means Respect,* is an offbeat examination into the origins and power of the facial hair tradition and attempts to break the boundaries of acceptance across class and gender lines. Credit must be given where credit's due and it's the haunting strumming of guitarist Ted Memphis (whose identical twin used to play in a punk rock band called Jeniger) that gives Butch Meier the extra punch that takes their music over the top. Highly recommended! (Dan)
mailorder@butchmeier.de

CATHETER - *Do You Love Grind?* CD
Dude! CD discography of all the 7" 's including 5 splits, they're self titled and some songs off a comp. Twenty one songs total of some of the best grind/ crustcore stuff out there. Think PHOBIA (only better) and DESPITE. Very raw, very hate filled music from some very damaged people. I remember a show they played where the bassist would kick people in the crowd to get them riled up. Ahh good times. (Emo Wuss)
Civilisation Records / Parkstr 39 / 89312 Gunzburg Germany

COMRADES - *No Escape* CD (also 7")
This, this is an intense record. Its blend of hardcore and thrash, finely worked together, is music to my ears (go on, laugh). They have split vocals that vary from low growls to high screaming. Most of the songs have transitions intermixed through the songs, changing the tempo from heavy and grinding to blisteringly fast. Don't be surprised if you find yourself singing along to the breakneck speed songs, as I often did. WITH LYRICS INCLUDED! (a note on the cover, perhaps this is uncommon in Italy?) Comrades is politically motivated and each song comes with an explanation of its meaning. Overall, this record is a great package, and definitely worth a listen. (Zach)
soarecords@libero.it/comrades_hc@hotmail.com

CONTAINER CRUSTIES FROM HELL *A Benefit for Food Not Bombs Philippines* LP
Holland's C.C.F.H. deliver non-stop, hyper-speed thrash with a level of intensity you would never imagine capable from a band with only two members! Lyrically they tackle many political subjects with the same intensity as their music, with songs in both English and French. This record comes with a large booklet, containing all kinds of information about the country of The Philippines and the punk scenes in SE Asia (where they toured in 2000), as well as all of the lyrics and related information. They also do a Drop Dead cover, which pretty much sums up the musical direct this band takes. A great deal of thought an energy went into this record and it's a great example of what the highest form of what DIY scene is capable of. (Dan)
Maloka / BP 536 / 21014 Dijon / France

COUNTDOWN TO PUTSCH - *Interventions in Hegemony* 2xCD
The sheer audacity of putting out a 2 disc album without it being a goddamn discography makes them even fucking cooler than their previous releases have made them in my mind. Give them your attention! Imagine anything from free form jazz, experimental noise, thrashy hardcore and spoken word wrapped up into one. Not only aesthetically pleasing this is very, very challenging on the ears. Which I love!!! This bands heart is in a good place. This isn't the run of the mill anarchist band, they are refreshing, inspiring—in a word, awesome! Nearly 80 minutes each CD and a booklet worth reading from beginning to end. Put out by Crimethinc, kid! (Emo Wuss)
Crimethinc. Ex Workers Foundation / PO Box 2133 / Greensboro NC 27402

CRIATURA-s/t LP
Can't say I was incredibly into this-CRIATURA reminds me oddly of later SPITBOY in the way their songs are put together. Not necessarily a bad record, but a little too much technicality going on here and not enough punch to really get me going. (Doug)
Mala Raza / AP CO. 6037/ 50080 Zaragoza / Spain or entropia@arrakis.es

DEATHSQUAD - 7"
This is the latest project from Nate Wilson and his crew. Fairly evil, straight-ahead hardcore going on with this one. Personally I'm a little more into these guys' other bands (MONSTER X, POLICE LINE) but DEATHSQUAD will do me just fine. (Doug)
Deathsquad / PO Box 14253 / Albany, NY 12208

DESPERATE CRY - *These Ants Are My Friends* CD
I'm thinking that these dudes are angry. It seems like it from the pretty sick and distorted music they belt out. But I can't really know for sure because they sing in German. I detect some mosh metal parts but in the good sense not the macho dickhead kind of way. Kind of tough mid tempo hardcore from some kind looking folks. (Emo Wuss)
www.gatetohell.net

DIOXIN-LP
This is a release from an older band from the Czech Republic that I previously knew absolutely nothing about. Not a bad showing-what you get is pretty mid-paced anarcho-sounding punk. I was reminded at times of classic UK bands like ANTI-SYSTEM. Good shit. (Doug)
Strongly Opposed Records / Flurveg 29 / CH 2504 Biel / Switzerland

DISGRUNTLED/BRAINGHETTO - Control split CD
This split is excellent. From it's packaging to the music everything is worked together in a good mix. The two bands seem very much different in musical styles and abilities, but make for a gratifying listen because of their contrasts. Sadly the Disgruntled side of the split isn't nearly as well produced as the BrainGhetto side. Still it's my favorite side of the split because Disgruntled plays a refreshingly unique and musically adept style of music. They have twin guitars, rolling bass lines, and twin vocals. They would be classified as crusty hardcore, but they're so much more, as is shown in their "Signing in the Rain"- a mellow reggae tune. Likewise, the BrainGhetto side is incredibly pissed off hardcore crust with a message. Despite being more musically limited by their size (one guitar and drums) they have infectious and catchy beats that are bound to get stuck in your head. Anyone will like this split. (Zach)
Noisekontrol Records / Husni, 502 Block 11 / Section 24, 40000 Shah Alam /
Selangor / Malaysia
Pissart Records / Khabir, 511 Block 18/ Jalan Merak 6/3 / 40000 Shah Alam / Selangor / Malaysia

ERPICE - s/t CD
Baaadddaasss! Great use of dynamics up in this mofo. Very soft parts build up to some really well executed rock and roll. Italian mellowcore. Lyrics translated
into four different languages, (hey! Maybe US bands should stop assuming people only speak English) but they're sung in Italian. You can feel the emotion oozing out of the damn speakers. Lyrics are very oriented towards personal issues everyone should deal with. (Emo Wuss)
Fernando Falcolini / via Roma, 53 / 72015 Fasano (Br) / Italy

GANGWAY MAN! - *Muri Di Virtu* CD
Rock with a punk edge to it. Italian greats GANGWAY MAN! Return after three years since their last release with eight sincere and heartfelt tracks dealing mostly with the struggle to be oneself. Very kickback music. Truly good stuff. (Emo Wuss)
Fernando Falcolini / via Roma, 53 / 72015 Fasano (br) / Italy

GLASS AND ASHES - s/t CDR
Ahhh. Intense post-hardcore leaning more in the hardcore rather than indie/ emo slowcore direction. Great stuff. They used to be known as KENJI but after taking a short hiatus and dumping all their old material they shall now be referred to as GLASS AND ASHES punk! They've earned a reputation for being a fucking passionate live band. This is their demo CDR containing four mid paced heavy/ melodic songs with awesome raspy vocals and some breakdown parts. (Emo Wuss)
glassandashes@hotmail.com

GLOBAL CHAOS - *1492* 7"
Global Chaos is a four piece punk band that hails from Philadelphia, PA. Their sound is eerily similar to that of Aus Rotten's, with harsh split vocals that are volleyed back and forth only to be broken by chanting choruses. Although the lyrics aren't as in depth and intelligent as Aus Rotten's, they are just as heated and energetic. Some of the songs were somewhat cliche (Corp. Religion), but it's still one fine record. (Zach)
www.globalchaospunx.com

GUARDIA NEGRA - *Adrenalina* CD
More streetpunk/oi sounding stuff from Spain. Pictures of burning cops and contacts for anti-fascist organizations all over the insert so you know what this band's about politically. I'm normally not too big on this style of music but GUARDIA NEGRA held my attention better than a lot of other bands that sound like this. My advice to this band would be to keep its politics and lose the ska parts. Other than that, not bad at all. (Doug)
PO Box 546 / Randolph, MA 02368

HELLBOUND - *No Rest for the Warmachine* CD
This is actually a tour version of this band's split with WAVES on MCR Records. Utterly raging male/female fronted crust that reminds me a lot of STATE OF FEAR without the breakdowns. Not only does this band destroy live, they are also total sweethearts who definitely know how to party. (Doug)
PO Box 80, STN C / Montreal, Quebec / H2L 4J7 / Canada

HERO DISHONEST - *Climbing Up On The Way Down?* 7"
Hey kids are you depressed? Are you down and out and feel like there's no reason to live? Well I'll make you a deal, if you're easily influenced by music and feel the above mentioned emotions then don't get this because you'll kill yourself. But if you like music for its cathartic effects and feel like crap then get this and be saved. Really doom and gloomy stuff. Crustier than your mouth foo. (Emo Wuss)
If Society / Jyrangontie 7 as 1 / 00550 Helsink / Finland

HK/ WITH LOVE - Split LP
HK is fucking ORCHID reincarnated. Well maybe not quite but they sound very goddamn similar to them. The only tangible difference is that they're from France but ORCHID threw in some of that French stuff too. Demented vocals, furious drum work and some really well executed soft to loud dynamics. Italian band WITH LOVE come at you with some twisted hardcore as well. A mellow ambient style track segues into some awesome from the heart hardcore and back out into some relaxed GODSPEED noise. Chill. (Emo Wuss)
Collectif Maldoror / Champrevault / 58170 Luzy / France

IMPERIAL LEATHER - *Commodity of a Filthy Society* 7"
Imperial Leather are kickin' ass from Stockholm. They punch out four raunchy, R-N-R, pissed off punk tunes on this 7". Dual vocals with Amyl from Spider Cunts fame belting it out. Their sound is very bass driven with tons of attitude. This is the epitome of punk rock, with that early 80's snotty style. Awesome, catchy, angry shit. (Hatchet)
Communichaos Media / Box 825 / 10138 Stockholm / Sweden

INEPSY - *R'N'R Babylon* CD
Fuck I have been waiting for this, and after seeing them on tour with Hellbound I knew I couldn't wait for the vinyl press. This is hands down the best album I've heard all year. There are elements of all of my favorite bands crammed into this ten song CD. There is the charge of early Venom, the punk/metallic edge of Broken Bones, and of course the balls out rock n roll ala Motorhead. There are wailing guitar solos, the vocals make me think of Lemmy with charged hair, and there is even a little harmonica on "we are here to climb." I'm having a hard time believing a punk band exists like this right now. Inepsy are the answer to my punk rock on, roll calling! (Hatchet)
Feral Ward/www.feralward.com

INEPSY - *Rock and Roll Babylon* CD
In listening to this I had to ask myself "How the fuck can a band be so punk and so rock and roll at the same time?" Imagine other night have been listening to this CD nonstop ever since. Tunes like "Lost the Ride" and "Born for the Road" are cult punk anthems already. "Street City Kids" rocks like a lost DEFIANCE song. The guy singing sounds like he drinks whiskey for breakfast. Bad-ass! (Doug)
www.feralward.com

INHUMAN NATURE - *The Demonstration* EP
I was actually getting ready to buy this when it came in the mail for me to review. This band kicks ass in the way ANTI-PRODUCT did before they ventured into emo territory. Three songs of hook-laden crust punk and a BORN AGAINST cover. Recommended! (Doug)
New Eden Records / P.O. Box 11055 / Costa Mesa, CA 92627

IN THE SHIT - A World of... LP (also CD)
At first I didn't know quite what to expect, a serious punk band or a cliche streetpunk band like so many others. Actually, it couldn't be much further from cliche, they play a variation of musical styles, not limiting themselves to one, and sing about everything but spikey hair and getting drunk. Rolling, up-tempo bass lines and thrashy guitars characterize the second LP released by In the Shit. This entire record is a fun listen because each song's style varies slightly, keeping the music from getting repetitive. They play my personal favorite style of music: upbeat tunes with serious as hell meanings behind them. I'm pretty sure anyone will like this record (despite the slightly ludicrous name) and won't be able to get the songs out of their heads once they're done listening to it. (Zach)
Blind Destruction Records / www.bdrecs.com / blind_destruction@hotmail.com
Mass Production Records /19 Rue Malaguti / 35000 Rennes / France / www.massprod.com / massprod@massprod.com

KENT BROCKMAN / EDORA - split LP
Named after our favorite TV news anchor, Kent Brockman play that wacky-ass thrash your face off hardcore. Full of fury, dual vocals, metallic guitars and slow metal breakdowns. Reminiscent of Hellnation, Brody's Militia, Kerum. Edora hail from Singapore and they are fucking awesome. Charging hardcore with female vocals. Her voice reminds me a lot of Stacy from Calloused and their style s much the same, only on 45 rpm with blast beats! Hell yeah, this is a great split. (Hatchet)
TVG Records / Axel Brandt / PF 1219 / 14963 Ludwigsfelde / Germany

KNIFED/LIMPWRIST - split 7"
This is a great split. On the one side we have KNIFED, who are a crazed Irish band that spew out 4 short'n'sweet thrashing numbers of extreme homocore. On the flipside we have the mighty LIMPWRIST. They give us 5 tracks of raging HardCore. The first track was previously unreleased and the other tracks come from two different comps... Hysteria and a SUBURBAN VOICE comp. I really wish these guys were still around. Oh well. Pick this record up ASAP. (Ciderpunk)
Rejected Records / P.O. Box 6591 / Dun Laoghaire / Co. Dublin / Ireland

LEFTOVER CRACK - Demo CD
Ex members of Choking Victim came together to form Leftover Crack, an original mix of fast, political lyrics, ska beats and heavier undertones. This is off the beaten path, and worth a listen for folks looking for something that strays from the norm and combines different musical styles. (Maygun)
Not for Sale, No Label / Contact information / Scott Sturgeon / PO Box 1102 / New York, NY 10009 USA / www.leftovercrack.com

THE LORDS OF LIGHTSPEED - s/t LP
Imagine ESPERANZA and PLEASE INFORM THE CAPTAIN with some vampiric metal thrown in, you know—the kind with the opera singing, and you have the LORDS. Plays around with some fast/ grind elements and is very danceable due to the crazy synth and catchy beats. Odd as all fuck lyrics. I think they're about god or the universe or some other sci-fi crap. (Emo Wuss)
Banal Existence / Recs 2706 / Harvard Ave E / Seattle, WA 98102

LOST - *Fear Strach* LP
Damn, I have been blessed with this gem. I have been thinking of them and their impact of me after having seen them in Germany almost three years ago. And now I hold their full length in my hands. Agnes of Homomilitia fame sings, her vocal style has been perfected to a deep and dark guttural place, which compliments Lost's guitar-driven metallic edge. Being a huge fan of slow, atmospheric intros, this record doesn't disappoint! This is a powerfully driven album with a range of tempos intertwined. There are elements of early Sacrilege, Damad, ABC Diablo, but Lost are all their own. Lyrics ranging from vivisection to scene containment to war to personal relations. Quite possibly the best (and sadly) least known band around right now. Extremely recommended to those who crave the darker edge of punk. Hail! (Hatchet)
Schandmaul Records / PO Box 610 617 / 10937 Berlin / Germany

MANIFESTO JUKEBOX- s/t CD
Finnish poppy punk that happens to be very very danceable. A very energetic cd collecting six previously released tracks. It includes four songs from their 7" released in '99 and two from the I EXCUSE split 7". The only thing I have to complain about is that there's only six goddamn songs! I want more!!! (Emo Wuss)
Boss Tuneage / PO Box 74 / Sandy Bedfordshire / SG192WB UK

MASSICK - s/t CD
I'm listening to this CD by Massick, it's insane. The first track is a sort of rockabilly crust, crustabilly as I have so aptly named it. The second is thrashy grindcore, the 3rd track is mellow rock with organs (beat that!). And it continues on. It's some of the best thrash

SKEW WHIFF "Taedium Vitae" LP
from Liege / Belgium, with Hiatus and Medication Time members. Harsh hardcore with metallic guitars - mix Hiatus with Concrete Sox.

BORN DEAD ICONS "Ruins" LP
European pressing of the 3rd LP of Montreal finest hardcore

ANTICHRIST / INTENSITY split LP
angry frustrated Polish hardcore and pure fast Sweden style

SILENCE "Hypnosis" EP
ex-Antichrist, more "emotional" but still fucking angry

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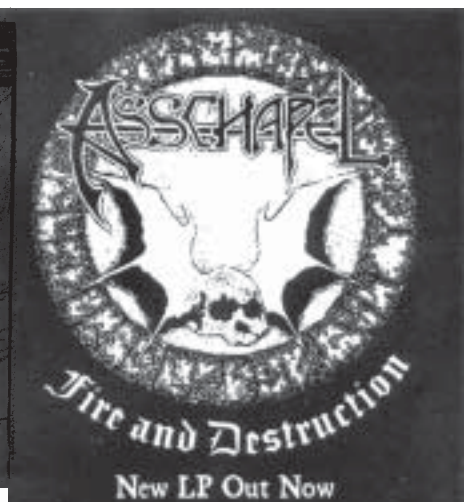

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mike_dfo@yahoo.com

More Brutal Releases Than You Can Shake a Stick At

Remains of the Day
"Hanging On Rebellion" Cd
$8.00 ppd US / $11.00 World
What else can be said about this band that hasn't already been said. This album is perfect. A masterpiece. Taking on the best of Tragedy and adding more, R.O.T.D. come up with one of the best albums ever. Spine tingling madness!!!

Asschapel "Fire And Destruction" Cd
$8.00 ppd US / $11.00 World
Asschapel blaze through another album of some of the best brutalizing Punk and Metal around. This one will just blow you away as Asschapel will add legions of fans to their chapel of hell with their solid, crazy and tight as hell songs.

Warspite "Gallery of the Macabre" Cd
$8.00 ppd US / $11.00 World
This is probably the best death metal release I've heard all year, unless my horrible memory is forgetting something... but either way, it's easily one of the top 10 Death Metal releases of the last five years. (Aversiononline.com)

Disgust
"The Horror of it All" Cd
$8.00 ppd US / $11.00 World
Disgust are back bringing you 17 brand new tracks of brutal Swedish hardcore in vein of Discharge and Disrupt. We can't even begin to tell you how awesome this is!!! Look for a new Split Cd soon.!!!

Facedowninshit
"Shit Bloody Shit" Cd
$8.00 ppd US / $11.00 World
Brutal sludgy hardcore with a touch of Black Sabbath. Really brutal in every aspect, this Cd includes all their releases to date!

Wolfpack
"Allday Hell" Cd
$8.00 ppd US / $11.00 World
Brutal Swedish Hardcore in vein of Skitsystem and Anti-Cimex. One of the most brutal Swedish hardcore albums ever made. This will blow you away!!!

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Misery "Early Years" Cd (Same as above)
Misery / Extinction of Mankind Split Cd (Same as above)
Remains of the Day "An Underlying" Cd (Same as above)

C.A.H. Records // P.O. Box 1421 // Eau Claire, WI 54702 // USA
Email: orders@cahrecords.com // Web: **www.cahrecords.com**
We accept credit cards. Up Next: To What End? new Cd (Ex Wolfpack)

and crust(abilly) that I've ever heard. It's only my opinion, but it's very melodic while still being hardcore, verging on grindcore in some tracks. Massick comes through in spades on this one; musically, we'll just leave it at "they know how to play" being the understatement of the year. Hear it for yourself. (Zach)
Human Meat for Sale Records c/o Dusan Ozanak/ Zborov nad Bystricou 455/ 023 03 / Slovakia

MACHETAZO - *Maggot Sessions* EP
Crushing mince/grindcore from this Spanish 3-piece. If you like shit like CARCASS and AGATHOCLES, this band will not let you down. Brutal! (Doug)
First Blood Family / PO Box 1766 / Madison, WI 53701

MIGRA VIOLENTA *Superficial* 10"
Ultra intense punk rock from Argentina that combines has both power and speed. Sixteen songs, all with lyrics that deal with political issues and commentary on the HC punk movement, written in Spanish, but with English translations provided. Quite simply put - this record rocks! (Dan)
Alerta Antifascista / PO Box 2318 / 24913 Flensburg / Germany

MISCHIEF BREW *Bakenal* CD
Mischief Brew is folk music anarcho-punk style. This first song brings the bluesy style Tom Waits to Mind, but they quickly shift gears into more traditional accoustic-guitar accompanied folk songs, then back for more blues. There are only five songs on this CD, but each one is a monumental anthem in it's own right. The perfect CD to listen to on the morning after a hard night of smashing the state (or punishing the liver). (Dan)
Fistolo Records / PO Box 2836 / Upper Darby, PA 19082

NET WEIGHT LP
I wasn't really expecting to like this, but NET WEIGHT caught me a little off guard. Very up-tempo, stop-and-start hardcore that pretty much lays on the speed till the end. I was reminded a lot of bands like WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? and TEAR IT UP. Pretty cool. (Doug)
Mala Raza / AP CO. 6037/ 50080 Zaragoza / Spain or entropia@arrakis.es

PACK - s/t 7"
Hailing from Switzerland, PACK hits hard with an in-your-fucking-face thrash and hardcore concoction, dual male vocals and dramatic guitar. The louder you have it, the more powerful it gets. All the lyrics are in english and speak of various injustices, some specific, some more on an elusive level, but either way fitting perfect with the style of music. The record cover is definitely a step above the typical cut n' paste black and white riot pig or dying human type, getting a tad artsy with a copper and black (demonic, shall I say?) design on the front. I have a habit of needing to listen to my most prized records when I get really drunk, and the other night I went for this PACK EP. Fantastic! I can't wait to see what comes next from these guys. (K)
Rinderherz Records / Postfach 3634 / 5001 AARAU / Switzerland / rinderherz@gmx.net

PARAGRAPH 119 *Du Har Ikke En Chance...* LP
Parargraph 119 are from Copenhagen and were a relatively short-lived band, formed in 1999 and broken up in 2002. During this time, they released two LP's and a 7", all of which have been recently released on Alerta Antifascista Records. While all three of their records are remarkable works, I think this LP, being their second and originally released in 2002, is the pinnacle of their achievement. Musically speaking, Paragraph 119 are fast hardcore punk with heaps of raw power and tons of breaks and breakdowns to keep it interesting. They have both male and female vocalists, who both shout the message in a throat-ripping rage, comparable to Homomilitia. Their message is defiantly political and come from the anarcho-punk / squatter movement. This record has a gatefold sleeve and also comes with big poster and nice booklet with lyrics and other writings (including English translations for everything). This record rates among the best I've heard lately, but I'd also recommend their other LP and 7", also just reissued on the same label. (Dan)
Alerta Antifascista / PO Box 2318 / 24913 Flensburg / Germany

PISSEDHEAD BLUES BAND s/t CDR
This is an accoustic blues project started a few years back by Jon of Misery, Matt of Civil Disobedience and Bree from Deadstate. This CD is the product of many evening in the basement studio at the house of Misery, getting fucked up, rocking out with accoustic guitars, and lamenting the bullshit life sends you. Most of the lyrics are absolutely hilarious, but the do have some more serious songs too, including a cover of the Mob's No Doves Fly here. They also mix it with occasional guest appearances by Gary from Misery, and Gooch from Assrash / Cut Throat Hoods. There are a total of 24 songs here, each one unique and interesting. I've been told that Crimes Against Humanity may do an official release of this if the band ever comes up with artwork for it. For the time-being, you can get a home-made copy for $6 post paid from the band. (Dan)
House of Misery / 3023 Garfield Ave S / Minneapolis, MN 55408

POIKKEUS - 7"
I never thought a Japanese band would go so far out of its way to sound Finnish, but here you go. I was expecting raw punk like KAAOS and BASTARDS and that is exactly what I got from POIKKEUS. Another killer record from Crust War. (Doug)
Crust War / 2-2-16.8C Sangenyahigashi / Taishu-Ku / Osaka City 551-0002 / Japan

THE PUBLIC/SEE YOU IN HELL - split 7"
The Public is a more diverse and unique band than See You in Hell. Their side starts off slow and unassuming, but soon speeds up to hardcore thrash and then suddenly rockets into an intense grindcore session. The rest of the record follows this format, but remains fresh. See You in Hell is thrashy hardcore, a sort of madness emanates from the music. Four short songs blast through your speakers in a relatively short period of time. I'd say the best aspect of See You in Hell is their drumming, which ranges from tribal beats to blazing and simple hardcore beats. (Zach)
Filip Fuchs / Grohova 39 / 602 00 Brno / Czech Republic / orba@seznam.cz

RAI KO RIS - *Guerilla* cassette
Rai Ko Ris are a great DIY punk band from, of all places, Nepal. The have been getting a fair bit of attention lately in the DIY zine community, for their music as well as the fact that a punk band does exist in a remote country such as Nepal. Well, this tape has 16 songs of great DIY punk along the lines of Active Minds, Seein' Red, and maybe a little Petrograd (for the melodies). The vocals alternate between male and female duties; which always adds a new dimension to the songs. The production is on the rough side, but hey, this is Nepalese punk played with spirit and passion. Do yourself a favor and check Rai Ko Ris out! (JM)
Sareena RAI / PO.Box 21778 / Kathmandu / NEPAL

RAI KO RIS – *Live In The Studio* CD
Again, I have to say what a great band this is! On this release, the production is much better yet still maintains that gritty raw DIY hardcore punk sound. These guys (and girl) speak out against police brutality, the farmer's resistance in Nepal, militarism (among other subjects) with a perspective that most of us would not normally get to hear. The music here is top notch, the songs are more developed than those on the Guerilla cassette, still played with anger, compassion and spirit. The international DIY punk community needs to hear bands like Rai Ko Ris! (JM)
Sareena RAI / PO.Box 21778 / Kathmandu / NEPAL
[Note: a RAI KO RIS 7", containing two tracks off each of the above releases called Himalayan Frostbite has just been put out by Bat Attack Records / PO Box 153073 / Tampa, FL 33684]

RAZORS EDGE - *Thrash March* 7" EP
These guys don't fuck around. When they say HEY HO LET'S THRASH they fucking mean it! The 6 tracks on this reissue were recorded in April '98. A screaming, yelling, rager of a release. Get it, or else. (Ciderpunk)
Busted Heads / Box 275 / 901 06 Umea / Sweden

RESIGNED TO FATE - *Tragedy of the Commons* 7"
Resigned to Fate is a crust band from the great state of Texas. While not being incredibly innovative, they do have great guitars that bring out the music. Sometimes crusty, sometimes hardcore, and always political, RTF is an overall well put together band. The recording is only of mediocre quality, but the music makes up for it. (Zach)
1212 Anna St. / Denton, TX 76201 / www.angelfire.com/rebellion/rtf

THE SCARLET LETTER - *Scattered, Smothered and Covered The Collected Letters* CD
Whoa Dude—whoa. Fastcore up to whazoo. It doesn,t go overboard with the speed though. In fact they keep it pretty interesting by throwing different elements into the mix. They got some acoustic guitar, some double bass, some breakdowns and really fun sing alongs. Reminds me of WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? Oh and is that a DRAMARAMA cover? Indeed it is. This CD is a really good collection of hard to find stuff so get it! (Emo Wuss)
Hater of God / Recs PO Box 666 / Troy NY 12181

SKARP s/t 7"
Skarp come from Seattle and play a distinctly unique brand of hardcore. They range at all levels, from straight up crust to D beat thrash to metal to dancy punk rock. I swear it's impressive! Dual vocals, the male side sounding very similar to Jesus Crust, an Renae sounds distinctly like Lynne from Disaffect that I had to check the albums to make sure. I love it. This album is so good with nice packaging (a poster and sticker inserted). Their intensity sort of reminds of Wake Up on Fire. I can't imagine them live! (Hatchet)
Pull the Trigger / 1601 S. Main St. #1 / Seattle, WA 98144

SKEW WHIFF – *Taedium Vitae* CD
Thick crust punk from Belgium, this band has at least one ex-member of the legendary band Hiatus. Skew Whiff play metallic-tinged crust that brings to mind bands like Scatha, Homomilitia, Hellbastard, or even Unhinged. The lyrics are in English, and it is clear that a lot of thought has gone into both writing the lyrics and the songs themselves. There are slow mellow intros and variety between the songs that make this record a definite standout in the genre. Highly recommended. (JM)
Life Is Abuse / PO Box 20524 / Oakland / CA / 94620

THE SOUND OF FAILURE - *The Party Is Over* CD
Possesses a certain FROM ASHES RISE sound to it in the pacing of the music. Fast enough to start your own pit but not ridiculous enough to hurt yourself. Very dark and brooding music, especially the lyrics. Some of the melodic heaviness of TRAGEDY thrown in as well. (Emo Wuss)
510 Burgundy Dr / Southhampton, PA 19866

SPAZM 151 - s/t CD
OK, this has been out on vinyl for some time now on Mind Control Records, but now you can pick this up on CD courtesy of Busted Heads Records. Most of you reading this should already know these guys, and if you're like me you picked this up a while back on vinyl. For the rest of you... WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU WAITING FOR? These guys play some killer old school HardCore Punk rock that gets my blood racing through my veins. Fast and furious just the way I like it! They throw a couple covers of some classic tunes at the end of the disc, Build Me A Bomb by JERRY'S KIDS and I Hate Myself by The Offenders. Get this today! (Ciderpunk)
Busted Heads Records / PO Box 275 / 901 06 Umea / Sweden

THE SPECTACLE - s/t 10"
At first glance you'd think this was a record from some old European mod band, but no! This is some crazy ass SHOGUN style screamo violent hardcore shite. From the land of Norway comes THE SPECTACLE with four songs to rip you a new one. Ok so I'm being a bit dramatic. But I really, really dig on this. Amazing music along with well thought out essays, lyrics and explanations. Your a dumbshit if you don't get this. You wouldn't wanna be a dumbshit would you??? (Emo Wuss)
Andreas Bakkemo / Kirkeveien 5 / n-8009 Bodo Norway

STIGGAN ANDERSSON - *Paasta Irti* 7"
I believe they're Eastern European but I couldn't really decipher any information up in this. I just know that they're rad. Has a very early days of punk rock feel to it. Its mid tempo and mellow rock and roll that's very fun to listen to. (Emo Wuss)
Roku Records / Porolontie La 3 / 96100 Rovaniemi / Finland

SWELLBELLYS - *N.G.U.* CD
A friend of mine gave me this from when he was over in the UK. I'd never heard these guys before so I thought I'd give 'em some props. The 5 songs on this cd were recorded in December 2002. For just under 12 minutes we are treated to some really cool fast streetpunk. The lyrics go from your typical Anti-system, war, cops to having the HardCore Punk rock attitude that's in their blood and keeps them going. A fine release. (Ciderpunk)
Contact 109 High Street / Dalkeith, Midlothian / EH22 1AX / Scotland / UK

TOXIC NARCOTIC - *We're All Doomed* CD
These guys have been around for a long time and have a slew of releases. I've seen them live twice in the last few months and they still throw a rager of a show that really gets the crowd going, and I've got to say that they're one of the tightest bands I've seen live in recent years. They're super tight on record as well and this release is no exception to that. The vocals bring to mind early CRUMBSUCKERS and the music is insane metallic HardCore. Their lyrics are very nihilistic to say the least. We're talking serious no future shit here. Their brutal solution for the overpopulation of the planet brings a sadistic smile to my face, and a lot you who read this zine regularly can definitely relate to the encouraging words about being a drunk in the song I'm So Thirsty. Good stuff. (Ciderpunk)
Go-Kart Records / P.O. Box 20 / Prince Street Station / NYC, NY 10012 / www.toxicnarcotic.com

TURUN TAUTI/YHTEISKUNNAN YSTAVAT - split 12" LP
Turun Tauti sings in Finnish, so this somewhat hinders my knowledge of exactly what they are singing about. However, their side of the record is fairly diverse, not limiting themselves to solely guitars, bass, and drums, they also successfully intermix sax and synth into a variety of their songs. !!!YY (given up on spelling it) is an excellent '82-style hardcore band. Heavy and fast buzzsaw guitars and less than one minute songs characterize this side of the split. Every song comes with translations, short and to the point. This is an excellent split, and a view into Finland's old (Turun Tauti) and new (YY) punk scene. (Zach)
Kamaset Levyt / Mechelininkatu 24 B 30 / 00100 Helsinki / Finland /
jukkeli@punkinfinland.net / kamanen

VÅNIG 5 *Slå Tillbaks Och Överlev* 7"
A six-song EP of anarcho-punk from the now defunct Vånig 5. Musically this is pretty straight forward hardcore punk with the trademark Swedish D-beat throughout. They have both male and female vocalists who take on songs about politics and punk rock. This reminds me a lot of the style of Operation and Protestera. What a bummer this release came out after the band split up, because it's really fuckin' good!!! (Dan)
Alerta Antifascista / PO Box 2318 / 24913 Flensburg / Germany

YHTEISKUNNAN YSTAVAT? EP
This is exactly what I thought it would sound like-very raw punk that sounds just like Finnish HC from back in the day. Pretty killer stuff, now if I could just figure out how to pronounce the name… (Doug)
Roku Records/Porselantie 1 a 3/96100/Rovaniemi / Finland

V/A *Against Police Injustice* CD
Created to free Ahmad Nelson and to fight against police injustice and racial profiling, this CD features a variety of bands old and new ranging from Segue, Against Me!, Conflict, Skarp, Choking Victim, Nausea, Born/Dead, Kylesa, ThoughtCrime, and more. All proceeds from the pressing of 3000 CDs go to the Committee to Free Ahmad Nelson and the Ahmad Nelson Legal Defense Fund. This is a great CD, and a project well worth supporting. (Maygun)
Non Commercial Records / PO Box 1102 / New York, NY 10009 USA / www.ahmadnelson.com

★ SPOKEN WORD and other stuff:

Chile: Promise of Freedom CD
A lot of people think of September 11th and don't think anything about September 11th, 1973. It was on this day that the Chilean government was overthrown by a US-backed military coup. This CD chronicles the events surrounding the conflict in Chile, the atrocities carried out by its military, and the demise of democracy in Chile under President Salvador Allende's Popular Unity Government. Check it out. (Doug)
The Freedom Archives / 522 Valencia St. / San Francisco, CA 94110

Choamsky, Noam - *The Emerging Framework of Global Power* CD
With this CD, Noam Choamsky discusses mainly things having to do with the corrupt nature of the United States government and the history of terrorism worldwide, with a nod to how the initial definition of "terrorism" was coined. Choamsky needs no introduction to those interested in how the United States carries itself in regards to the world itself. I'd be into hearing more releases like this one. (Doug)
AK Press / 674-A 23rd St. / Oakland, CA 94612-1163

Hansen, Anne *Reflections* CD-As part of the Squamish 5 as well as Direct Action, Hansen is known mainly for her part in the bombings of Litton Industries (involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons). She has also taken part in the destruction of stores peddling violent, non-consensual pornography. In listening to this, I was surprised to hear the generally laid-back tone of Hansen's voice. She covers a variety of subjects, from the aforementioned acts of direct action (which she served seven years in prison for), to United States foreign policy. She also fields questions from those attending this particular lecture, which I thought was a good touch. (Doug)
www.G7welcomingcommittee.com

★ ZINES ★ ZINES ★

***Brains* Vol. I Summer '03**
Digest/36 pgs/2 ppd (cash or blank checks only)/trade/$free to prisoners
This is a work of original punk fiction with a horror/zombie theme. There's loads of imagery that evokes a a classic 80s punk lifestyle - nearly gothcrossover, but still decidedly punk rock. For best results read while blaring Misfits. Very entertaining read with a few decent illustrations thrown in. I suppose this is a serial but it stands alone just fine. (Chelsea)
Mishap Publishing / Box 5841 / Eugene OR 97405

***Equalizing X Distort* - issue 3 #6/#7/#8**
Full size/12 pgs/16pgs/20pgs/ $?
This is a zine that "is an extension of the weekly radio show" dedicated to the underground HC/punk scene in Toronto. Mostly consisting of interviews with local bands as well as record reviews and a few articles interspersed. There are lots of band photos, local show listings, record store ads, etc. this is a nice resource mag for those wanting to check out the Toronto haps! Well done and dedicated. (Hatchet)
www.equalizingxdistort@ciut.fm

***Fast For Speed Freaks* - #4**
1/2 size/ 57pgs./ $?
This is quite an impressive mag from Tokyo. Nicely book bound with a glossy cover. Interviews in Japanese with Skit System, Wolfbrigade, Disgust, Guillotine Terror and more. Great photos and graphics also. There are a ton of record reviews and photos of Japanese wrestlers! Definitely for those with a thrashy sweet tooth. (Hatchet)
F-Factory/ 2-31-7-103 Shimoyugi/ Hachioji-Shi/ Tokyo 193-0372/ Japan

***Fifth Estate* Vol. 38, #3 (issue 362!)**
Standard / 48 pages / $3
Fifth Estate is not only one of the most consistently good anarchist magazines in North America, but is has also bee published for an incredible 38 years now. I used to find it hard to read, with the long articles too much to digest while on the shitter, but the writing style seems much more to the point and down to earth these days. I admit that I haven't read an issue for quite some time, mainly due to being off their mailing list since we tried to quit doing PE. Now I've read their last two issues and I'm quite impressed with the direction it is going. This issue (Fall 2003) is filled with news on activist actions (earth liberation, temporary autonomous zones, etc.) as well as good articles on a variety of subjects. There is also information on upcoming events and actions, backed up with theory and planning strategies. There is also a letters sections and a book review section that had me rolling on the floor. Along with Slingshot and Northeastern Anarchist, this one should added to your must-have subscription list. (Dan)
Fifth Estate / PO Box 201016 / Ferndale, MI 48220

***Green Anarchy* #14:**
This mag never disappoints, with its main focus on the more ecocentric facts of the anarchist movement, as well as prisoner contacts and news of struggle and resistance from around the globe. Especially interesting this time out are tales of ELF actions in San Diego and a cool piece called "Nihilism as Strategy." Killer, as always. (Doug)
Green Anarchy / PO Box 11331 / Eugene, OR 97440

***Head Wound* #15**
A4/28 pgs/50p & 34p SAE, 2 euros ppd., $2 ppd., or trade
Well-prepared interviews with Wasted, Bastards Trained by Bastards, Broken Access, The Mingers, Cop Car Pile Up, and Footprint printing co-op are all featured in this fanzine from Leeds. Also addressed are unethical show promoters, tabloid publishers,

★ NOISE ★ NOISE ★ NOISE ★ NOISE ★

commodification and depoliticising of punk. There's a lot of material here including loads of reviews. (Chelsea)
145-9 Cardigan Rd. / Leeds LS6 1LJ / England

Hobnail Review
A4/28 pgs/3 pound or $6 cash
This is the journal produced by the Hobnail Press, self-described as "an independent, not-for-profit, small press publishing initiative. Our publishing mission is based on the Orwellian tenet that, in a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." They review books and zines, and have articles dealing with issues of the small press. If you are self-publishing in Europe, you may want to look into the printing services they make available. (Chelsea)
PO Box 44122 / London, SW6 7XL / UK

Inonit - #15
1/2 size/ 22pgs/ $1 and IRC
Here's a cut n' paste zine from the UK. This seems to be mostly dedicated to punk n' roll/oi stuff with interviews and personal rants thrown in. I think the ideas of the articles are sound but the way they are presented is less than desirable (without solid focus). A nice effort but I'm not very impressed. (Hatchet)
Paul/ The Flat/ 56A Upgate/ Louth/ LINCS/ LN11 9JN/UK

***Monologue* #1**
1/2 size / 10 PGS. /$?
Here is a short and sweet zine from our very own Maygun. This first issue tackles the Pointless Fest in Philly back in August. She doesn,t go into the bands that played or the schedule, etc., but rather speaks about her own experience in traveling, seeing old friends, meeting new people, and getting out of the containment of a city and routine. There are photos, quotes, and drawings throughout. A fine first issue, I can't wait for more! (Hatchet
Profane Existence / Attn.: Maygun

***Nero Fiddled While Rome Burned* #4**
8.5 x 11/26 pgs/3 stamps or trade
Jacob takes swipes at the Bush regime, the "War on Terrorism", the erosion of civil liberties and global imperialism by assembling lengthy, well-phrased and alarming passages on these topics. In each case he lists the source of the quotes commentators ranging from Noam Chomsky to David Letterman. While the sentiments are easy to get behind, this mag might benefit from a little more structure and clarity. (Chelsea)
Jacob David / PO Box 3050 / Eureka CA 95502

***News from the Underground* #6**:
This is a smaller zine, basically a monthly newsletter of direct action with an international focus. This time you get news of general strikes in France, civil disobedience in Oregon, events listings and prisoner addresses. Cool! (Doug)
News from the Underground / PO Box 10384 / Eugene, OR 97440

***Off-Line* #26**
1/2 size/ 69 pgs/ $?
Here is another issue of the amazingly consistent political/personal zine I have come to love. Thick as hell, Off-Line tackles a ton of topics from a wide range. Tales of working in a church in HS, a clever piece using the alphabet to describe important events or things in Vincent's life (i.e. M s for mixed tapes, P is for Protest). There are great vegan recipes, an article on America's unwillingness to say no to meat and dairy, and also letters, reviews and tons of photos (from nature to sculpture to David Lee Roth!). Off-Line should definitely be checked out, I look forward to every issue. (Hatchet)
Off-Line / 35 Barker Ave. #4G/hite Plains, NY 10601

Routes I Know: Bicycle Routes Around Minneapolis
1/4 page, 44 pages
There should be a version of this for every city! This booklet begins with general tips for bikers in the city, why specific routes were chosen, and information on bridges in and around Minneapolis that are biker friendly. The bulk of the zine contains detailed directions to and from all sides of Minneapolis and into St Paul. Each set of directions is accompanied with a highlighted map. The zine offers multiple routes, both on and off busy streets. It ends with a listing of bike shops, collectively run restaurants, and infoshops. This is a valuable resource for any bike rider— a must have for anyone in the twin cities, and a must create for all other cities and towns! (Maygun)
J. Gerlach / BSAD Publishing / 1827 5th Street NE / Minneapolis, MN 55418 USA

***Slingshot* #79**
Tabloid / 16 pages / $1
As always, *Slingshot* delivers anarchism and activism to the San Francisco Bay rea and beyond. There are well-written articles on the murders of women in Juárez and Chihuahua, Mexico, the global-capitalist invasion of Iraq, Christianity and empire, and much more. *Slingshot* is full of attitude and anger and is always a pleasure to read. Send postage for a bundle and pass 'em out to your loved ones. (Dan)
c/o Long Haul Infoshop / 3124 Shattuck Ave. / Berkeley, CA 94705

***Teenage Death Songs* #15**
8 1/2" x 10" /26 pgs/$1
Wow. Here is one of the best zines I've read this year. It is the story of Tennessee losing his best friend Sear Bilezekian. This is the 4rth zine I have read dedicated to her memory and more importantly her life before. I didn't know Sera but have been drawn to this tragedy and how she affected the world before and after her passing. Maybe it is that Rob Los Ricos element in all of us, sometimes being one step away but not going through, that baffles us about her actions. Tennessee weaves the story of his loss and guilt, informing us about the beginning of their friendship, through the last months and afterwards. He finds closeness with those effected so intimately also. Highly recommended. (Hatchet)
Tennessee Jones / 1090 Greene Ave. / Brooklyn, NY 11221

***UGZ* no.13**
8.5 x 11/64 pgs/$2 ppd
Urban Guerilla Zone is one hefty magazine! This issue gives a long and detailed history of UGZ magazine, which was apparently started with the ambition of stirring things up in the Bay Area. Bands featured include Consume and Born/Dead (2002 tour diary), but many others are represented in photographs by Murray Bowles and others. Adrienne Droogas' column reminisces about the Maxi Pad punk house and there is an article on Anarchy, Ecology, and Sustainability. Loads of reviews. (Chelsea)
Jay/UGZ/ PMB #419/1422AWalnut St./Berkeley, CA 94709

★ BOOKS ★ BOOKS ★

Alternative Hardcore- Chapbook
1/2 size/ 30 PGS/ $1
This is a chapbook, but it ain't filled with your typical poetry! Diamond Doug spins tales of woe, angst, and discontent, as well as a little warmth thrown in for good measure. Pieces on women, scenes, actions at the bar, playing gigs, getting shit on, politics, and punk. His writing style is that hard-edged realist just trying to get by. And how can you go wrong with the title: "Anarchy, Dreadlocks, Studs, and Doug Saretsky" ?!? Hell yeah. (Hatchet)
Diamond Doug / 1970 Westwood Northern Blvd. #5 / Cincinnati, OH 45225

Manufacturing Consent: Prison Writings of Anarchist Rob Los Ricos
digest/52 pgs/$$?
Radicalized at age 12, Latino anarchist Rob Los Ricos had a long history of activism when he was arrested during a 1999 Reclaim the Streets demo in Eugene, Oregon when he was accused of throwing a rock at a cop. Subsequently, he was severely beaten and sentenced to an 8-year prison term which he now serves. Admirably, he continues his struggle for social justice even from behind bars, as evidenced by these informed yet accessible writings compiled here by friends and supporters into an attractive booklet. There are several photographs of masked protesters, an inner-view with Ron conducted by walidah imarisha. To learn more about Rob, visit www.ricanstruction.net/lockdown/html. This publication was produced by audio visual terrorism. (Chelsea)
Note: The web site credited for creating this pamphlet (audio visual terrorism) no longer exists. However, more information and many of Rob's writings can be found at these locations:
http://www.ricanstruction.net/lockdown.html
http://www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos
You can probablly get printed copies of this pamphlet from APLAN / 818 SW 3rd Ave. / PMB #354 / Portland, OR 97204

Off The Map
Off the Map is the collected travel writings of Hibickina and Kika, two females traveling witha tentative agenda across Europe with not much more than their backpacks and a vague idea of where to go. They travel without maps, without cars or trains or planes, or hotels. They work in exchange for food and sleep outside in small villages and fields when they can't find squats. It is in essence a travel story about women in search of finding themselves and creating their own adventures. I don't know If it was that I was about to embark on my own travels through Europe with awesome women at the time that I read this, but I loved this book. It read quickly, intensly, passionately, a documentation of travels away from the mainstream and without limitations. Fantastic. (Maygun)
CrimethInc. Dreamers Union / PO Box 1963 / Olympia, WA 98507-1963 USA

On Fire: the Battle of Genoa and the Anti-Capitalist Movement
This is an interesting concept for a book; there are sixteen writers who share their experiences about the anti-G8 demonstrations in Genoa in July 2001. There is a strong British slant to the perspectives, but it is interesting to read so the experiences of so many writers from (slightly) different ideological backgrounds. There is quite a lot of overlap in the events which took place, but each of the writers adds their own critique and interpretation of exactly why the demonstrations occurred how they did. There are thoughts about the outcome of the protests, and what is the next step in the global battle against the G8 and worldwide capitalism. There are many pictures taken from the front lines, illustrating once again, that those in power will use the police and military to protect capitalism at the expense of the rights of the people that make up the nations of the world. Quite a few of the pages in On Fire deal with the issue of the Black Bloc and how this situational group fits into the broad spectrum of the anti-capitalist movement. An interesting read meshing many personal observations and ideologies with the events that left a young man dead, killed by the state. (JM)
AK Press / 64-A 23rd Street / Oakland, CA 94612-1163

Thank You For Your Continued Interest-Letters and Essays by Richard L. Mackin
digest size book/192 pgs/$12 (+postage?)
Mr. Richard Mackin is still at it! His latest book is chock full of Rich's trademark smart-ass letters written to major corporations. These can range from whimsical haikus to scathing indictments of labor or environmental practices. He often recieves hilarious and predictably ass-kissing responses from the companies' PR departments and these are collected here as well. This content is rounded out by essays and practical tips on bicycling, roadtrips and DIY. Nice full color cover art, also prepared by none other than Rev. Mackin himself. (Chelsea)
Gorsky Press/POBox 42024/Los Angeles, CA 90042 | www.gorskypress.com

Under the Yoke of the State: Selected Anarchist Responses to Prisons and Crime Volume 1, 1886-1929
1/2 size / 60 pages / $4
This booklet gives me chills. I read through it thoroughly and took a while to do so even though it is only 60 pages long. It took even longer to digest everything and then I exploded, thrilled and disgusted at the same time. This publication is wonderful, containing almost twenty personal stories, memoirs, first-hand accounts and essays on prison systems, everything from the appalling treatment and degradation of humans to a breakdown of the idea of incarceration and reasoning for anarchist opposition to such bullshit. Some of the pieces are very, very personal such as a letter from Nicola Sacco (murdered by the government alongside comrade Vanzetti in 1927) to his son, Dante saying his last goodbyes and lovingly reitertaing the importance of the struggle for true freedom. Others are a straight-forward testament to the undying will that anarchists possess written in a realistic, true and matter-of-fact way. Any level of mind who reads UNDER THE YOKE will be able to absorb its contents, as it is exceedingly rich but simple in revealing in so many ways the human suffering at the hands of the real criminals, capitalism and the State. At the very least I imagine this helping people either feel renewed in the solidarity of the ideals or to those who are unfamiliar with the subject, giving a solid platform to start on. It also includes brief biographies of the writers, a few snippets of artwork, a quick primer on anarchy and information about book and pamplet distirbution projects that move much needed radical and revolutionary literature into the hands of our fellow people who have been raped of their freedom and remain in cages. All profits are given to the Prison Literature Project. (K)
BM Hurricane / London WC1N 3XX / UK
PMB 820 / 2425 Channing Way / Berkeley, CA 94704

Publishing project Sto citas? and magazine *Libra Libera* announce an international contest: Rediscovering Utopia

Utopias and utopian ideas had left a strong mark on human history, ever since the first civilisations until today. While some of them have come true in one way or another, all of them were base for some form of social change.

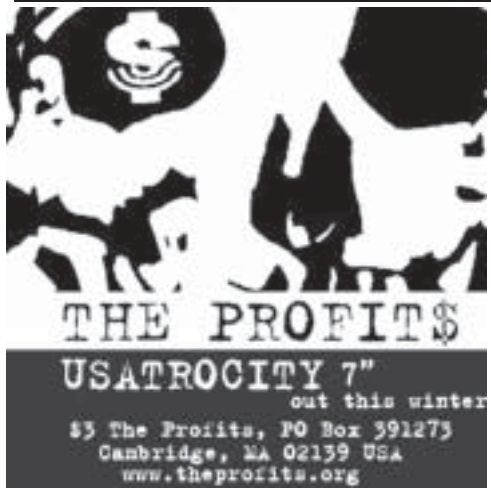
Utopias have always represented human hopes for better future or visions of past, present or future. Today, when utopias are only a dream that most people forgot, and every utopian effort is just a scream in the society of fast living, fast production for even faster consumption, it is time for the rediscovering of utopia.

That is why we decided to look for stories (short or long) on utopia.

Terms of the contest:
★ all stories can be individual or group work
★ stories have to deal with utopia (or anti-utopia), in past, present, future, parallel world, anywhere in space or outside of it...
★ number of words is not important
★ texts should be sent in digital form (.doc, .rtf, .txt,...) on floppy disk, CD, or via e-mail
★ it is good to send some information on author(s)
★ deadline for all texts is 15th December 2003

After the deadline, and depending on the number of the received texts, their length and quality, we will decide which texts to include in the book "Rediscovering Utopia" (and ofcourse inform the authors). The book will be published in spring 2003, and it will be in Croatian (for now). This project is international.

Please send all texts to: Sto citas? / P.P. 5051 / 10040 Zagreb / Croatia or e-mail: stocitas@zamir.net
www.stocitas.org or www.attack.hr/libera



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Resist and Exist Mexcio Tour 2003

Plans to travel into Mexico had been on our mind as a band for at least a few years. During our last US tour we were scheduled to go thru Texas and into Mexico for a few shows but we had to pull out due to circumstances.

Finally last spring as we were talking about setting up a west coast tour for the summer when we realized that we really weren't too excited about doing another traditional west coast tour and playing shows for people who have seen us many times, and many times did not much seem to appreciate the fact that we were playing at all. The west coast punk scene, for the most part, is as much spoiled and stale as it is inspiring. We had hope that an experience in Mexico would be different and as it turned out, we were correct in having such a hope.

After a member of the J.A.R. collective from Mexico City stopped by Los Angeles and hung out with us for a few days (and extended us an invitation) we decided that it was time to go to Mexico. We contacted some other friends we had in Mexico and the tour was planned. Unfortunately due to time and monetary constraints we were only able to do a short week-long tour. The tour itself was organized by a few different collectives in Mexico City and Guadalajara. Many thanks go out to Sin Medios Producciones, Fallas Del Sistema and La Comuna Libertaria, and to the J.A.R. Collective and the U.T.A. for setting up such a well-planned and successful tour.

Getting our passports was our first priority. As usual, we lagged and almost did not get those damned documents in time for the tour. It's quite ironic that members of our band who have been publicly investigated by the F.B.I for their activism, were questioned by a differing state agency as to the legitimacy of their own identity. Don't ever forget that this government is seriously disorganized in many areas. It was really a quite stressful experience as we had already purchased our plane tickets and set up the tour, but we still were not in possession of the stupid material document that 'permitted' us to leave this wonderfully free country and enter another.

Like always, things pulled together in the end and we were off to Mexico. A week later we flew out of LAX in the afternoon and arrived in Mexico City later that evening. Mexico City is a trip. It's the largest city in the world with and estimated population of 30-70 million residents, built directly on top of the ruins of the old Aztec capitol, Tetnochitlan. When our friends picked us up from the airport we all hopped in their van and got our first glimpse of the city on our way back to their house. It's always an exciting feeling to be in fresh and unknown surroundings; I was very excited to get out into the city the next day. Our first show was not until the next evening so we settled in for some beer and conversation before checking out for the evening.

After we all woke up and got ready, and J finished spiking his hair, we left with Nalley to take a tour of the city. Mexico City is so much different, on many levels, than anywhere that I have ever been in the U.S. The City has a great public transportation system of subways and buses that can get you anywhere you need to go for a very small price. All the public transport still doesn't seem to help the fact that Mexico City has some of the most polluted air in the world, far, far worse than anything I have ever experienced in Los Angeles. We first boarded a bus. Busses in Mexico City are an adventure. This one had no doors and people hung out the bus when it got too full. The busses here don't seem to obey any traffic rules, for that matter neither do the cars. The standard procedure seemed to be to honk when going thru an intersection rather than stopping. A much less rigid ~~system~~ than we have back in LA. In fact, this much more easy going, un-rigid, atmosphere seemed to permeate the entire city, in all its interactions.

Our first stop was the central plaza in Front of the Presidential Palace. This was the same plaza that was filled with thousands of people a few years back when Sub Comandante Marcos of the Zapatistas spoke before entering talks with the Mexican government. It is an old city. The Gothic architecture of the old buildings surrounding the plaza fosters a strange mood. To the left are the excavated remains of a large Aztec temple. It makes for a strange visual. The entirety of the city is actually an eclectic mix of Aztec, colonial, and modern Mexican influence. Many of the colonial buildings in the old part of the city are sinking. Some say its because the city is built on an old lake bed, but there is an old tale that it's the result of a curse put on the Spanish conquistadors by the Aztec priests (Montezuma's revenge).

Our second stop was at the Biblioteca Social-Reconstruir (Mexico city's Anarchist Library). This place was an incredible archive of materials relating to the Anarchist movement of Spain during the Civil War of the 1930's. The collection was brought to Mexico by a Spanish Anarchist who fled the fascist dictatorship of Franco, which was imposed on Spain after the failure of the revolution. This place is in need of a lot of funding as many priceless artifacts are in decay an in need of preservation techniques that the library cannot afford. The first night's show was a benefit for the library, but it was just a drop in the bucket compared to the money that the place needs.

We arrived at Multiforo Alicia, the venue for the first show later that evening. This was a really cool venue decorated by revolutionary wall murals. It was an all ages venue but still sold cheap beer, which everyone but a certain straight edge member of our band enjoyed. You can't beat a 32-ounce bottle of Corona for $1.50. (And that's a bar price, not a market price!) If I remember correctly five bands played that evening including **Angele**, a band called **Distrofia, Fallas Del Sistema**, and **Resist and Exist**. All the bands were great. It was an awesome, well-attended show. We met a lot of really cool people there. After the show we returned back to the house we were staying at with Fallas Del Sistema, whom we were touring with. We all talked and drank deep into the night even though we had to wake up early to travel to Toluca, our next destination.

After a few hours, and for others zero sleep we all set out for Toluca. Toluca is a small town just south of Mexico City that has a fairly large indigenous population. We took the bus, then the subway, and then another bus and arrived in the Toluca bus station a few hours later. None of us knew exactly how to get to the venue. Luckily, a punk kid in the bus stop noticed us and helped us find our way to the venue. This was the most interesting show of the tour. We rode a bus to the outskirts of Toluca and got off. The rain was pouring. We all made our way down a small dirt road. Fields of corn and other crops surrounded the few small structures along the road. A family of ducks followed us for a while down our path. A little further on we saw a group of punk kids standing in front of a decaying cement building. We greeted them and they led us up a stairway, over a rooftop, and down into a small plaza covered by a huge yellow tent. Inside was a stage, and a really good sound system. The atmosphere of this place was unique to say the least. Slowly the place filled up; eventually hundreds of people were there. It was amazing. The best thing about this show was that people from the local community were attending along with punks from around the surrounding cities. All ages were represented from elder down to toddler. We were told that when there are shows there, people come from states many hours away to attend. Shows such as this are actually appreciated and not taken for granted like so many shows in the States are. Lots of really great bands played that night including; **Odio Oi, Miercoles de Ceniza, Nu Boxte, Resistencia Inutil,** and **Pasion Libertaria**. The Crust scene in Mexico is really big, and most of the bands that evening were in that genre, with the exception of one band that was good old heavy metal rock. As soon as we finished our set we realized that we were really late and had to leave to catch our bus to Guadalajara. We had no time to take the bus so someone at the show offered us a lift. Seven or eight of us piled into the back of a truck along with all of our equipment. Benjamin from Fallas Del Sistmea told the driver to haul ass, and he did. It was pouring rain and once we got onto cement roads the weight of the truck caused it to loose traction. We hydroplaned and nearly got in a really bad car wreck. Luckily it was just a fender bender. Once again, we narrowly averted disaster and made it to the bus station just as the last bus to Guadalajara was leaving. The ride to Guadalajara was about 7 hours long. The bus was playing some horrible Hollywood movie about guys with race cars and girls who like them, and they all fight and steal, and kill, and buy expensive things. We slept most of the bus ride and arrived in Mexico's second largest city, Guadalajara, early in the morning.

James, the drummer for Fallas, picked us up at the bus stop. He drove us to his house where his mom was nice enough to fix a big breakfast for all of us. We all thanked her and then ate until we were ill, as we had not really had time to eat anything the day before. After a short rest and digestion period we all went to the punk rock swap meet. In the center of town every week, there is a huge swap meet where punks, gothic kids, hippies, indigenous folk from the country, and all sorts of other outcasts get together to sell things, hang out, eat, and listen to music. We walked around and took it all in. Benjamin and Nallely introduced us to many people there and handed out fliers for that evening's show. I just kept thinking to myself how great it would be if it were possible to have such a thing in the U.S. Things are so much more relaxed in Mexico. No one had permits to do this (I'm not sure that they are even technically necessary in Mexico for this type of thing) and the police were nowhere to be seen. It was the perfect example of a Temporary Autonomous Zone.

That evening, our next show was at a dingy bar in Old Town Guadalajara called El Fondo. The venue was great. The bathrooms had plants breaking thru the walls and growing into them. Again, the cheap Corona flowed freely. The line up for the show was **Gritos de Rabia, Gracias Por Nada, Oveja Negra, Hydrophobia, Fallas Del Sistema, and Resist and Exist**. All the bands were great. One of the band's, I think it was Gracias Por Nada, was a ska punk band that reminded me of Against All Authority and Voodo Glow Skulls. The crowd really liked them. Hydrophopia was another highlight of the show. They play really hard crust punk, their music has made it into the states on a few compilations that I have seen.

After the show was over we had to rush back to the bus station to make our trip back to Mexico City (D.F.). Once in the station we said some sad good-byes to Benjamin and Fallas Del Sistema, and bought our tickets. I don't remember much of the rest of that evening, we were all exhausted and slept all the way back to Mexico City. Once we arrived at the bus station we all piled into a cab and took a ride back to Central Mexico City where we met up with some friends from J.A.R. Collective. These were the folks who set up our last show on August 3rd in Mexico City.

We got out of the cab in front of the U.T.A (Union of Autonomous Workers) building where Pib and Raul from J.A.R. met up with us. J.A.R. is a collective of punks who work out of the U.T.A. space. The space itself was the best example of an autonomous worker run center that I have ever seen. This place was far larger, more well taken care of, and had a general sense of productivity much greater than any such place that I have ever seen in the States. The center has a large show room, a bar, four balconies, a sitting and tabling area, and an info shop/clothing store. Not only that but it is literally only 4 blocks from the Presidential Palace. Could you imagine such a place in the U.S.! I guarantee it would not last even a year. These people had their shit together! The line up for that evenings show was: **Lumpen Punkletarios, Causa Justa**, another band whose name I have forgotten, and ourselves. This was another great show. Best of all we got to hang out with our friend (name withheld) who was deported to Mexico after the infamous May Day riot of Long Beach. Our friend, contrary to popular belief, is actually somewhat glad that he is now living in Mexico away from all the repression and general back stabbing and bullshit that happens so often in So. Cal.

That evening we took the subway home with some kids from J.A.R. The next day they took us out to see an abandoned area that they have been turning into a community garden. With the food grown there they feed themselves as well as giving donation to a nearby children's center. The place was really inspirational. Things are so different in Mexico. The neighborhood that the garden is in is somewhat of a liberated area. As some of the J.A.R. kids told us, the police rarely venture into the neighborhood for fear of being shot at! This is the same neighborhood where Sin Dios had played a huge outdoor show the month before that drew hundreds of punks from the surrounding areas.

The next day we caught a ride back to the Airport with some friends and were on our way back to Los Angeles. We were glad to be coming home but sad at the same time to be leaving behind so many new friends. It was a wonderful experience and I would recommend that more bands from the U.S take the time to tour Mexico. If anyone wishes to get in contact with anyone from Mexico City to book shows please e-mail us and we will get you in contact with the collectives there.

Peace. (drunkenturtle7@yahoo.com)

Much to learn from a Flourishing Movement

In addition to the chronological telling of events I, Ben, feel it's important to briefly focus more in depth on the implications of the experience of the tour. Having felt extreme disappointment after years of trying to organize/politicize/activate, etc. many within the U.S. punk "movement" I had pretty much given up on punk as an effective mode of change a few years ago. The invincibility and impenetrability of my young and hopeful punk mind couldn't last forever, and the time where all life was about was the next protest and the next show had to eventually be exposed for its shallowness. I have for thus for the last several years been living in an identity some refer to as "post-crust." Many of us post-crusters still bare markings of our stinky tribe-like past, though you'd have to have been one to know. Anyway, so much distance has past since my dream of living the life you see portrayed in the cover art of so many *Slug and Lettuce* issues had died, that I wouldn't have believed that my experience in Mexico would bring me back to the days of old, the days of hope and promise for an anarcho-punk future. However, in less than a week of being there, I was taken back to the day-dream land of my punk youth only there it was real.

Sure the U.S. scene has had a million collectives, distros, co-ops, labels, d-i-y miscellanea, and plenty of things to give you that feeling of walking into the future as if the state had crumbled and all you see around you is good-folk and autonomous reclaimed space. But there are many aspects required for a sustainable culture that the punk culture I've experience has had no clue about. Several of these include, family, respect, intergenerational support and involvement, food sharing, consistent mutual aid, discipline, stable infrastructure. I don't want to trash all U.S. punk scenes, and I don't want to romanticize the Mexican scenes we encountered, I just want to share my reflection that what we experienced in Mexico was far closer to the completion of a holistic sustainable punk culture for many observable reasons. For one, it was abundantly clear that on the whole, these people are more mentally healthy than me or anyone I've met in the U.S., punk or not. This is something I don't measure by some standard of status quo psychoanalysis, I measure it simply in smiles per day: all the people we hung out with were constantly sincerely smiling, not putting up a thin transparent mask to cover up their neuroses, corruption, and socio-pathology as is all too often the case for those of us in el norte. This could be the subject of a whole other piece, for now i urge the reader to take my word for it. Seeing friends greet each other with platonic kisses, smiles, and hugs was just a serious degree of intimacy and sincerity that far surpasses even the most benevolent of fellow punkers in the U.S.

Again this isn't a "we suck, they're awesome" point to make, it's really just to give people in the states some appreciation for the scope of what we're missing and for what we could be doing right. To sum up the experience of the scenes I've been involved in the states: we are lazy, corrupt, dramatic, non-committal, undisciplined, socially dysfunctional, individualistic, hateful, untrustworthy, etc. etc. These traits just seemed to exist at a much lower frequency if at all in Mexico. And in addition to this, they had there shit together, some projects lasting years with no sign of going under. They have spaces that are permanent. They have viable punk economies from barter to d-i-y boot-legging. They have tons of bands (many of which can be seen in our tour footage). They have many bands of people that don't even look punk and are in their 30s and 40s. Unfortunately there isn't space to list off all of the characteristics that we observed that blew are minds, but a couple of our experiences should help convey the message: at one of our shows some old guy, probably almost 50, walks up to us and gives us a gift, it was a ceramic punk skeleton holding a Resist and Exist tombstone. This was just some old guy that digs the band and wants to truly honor our presence. Can you guess how this made us feel after so many lame shows on tour where no one gives a fuck and the best attention you often get is someone trying to steal your merch! A lot of people we met were all about honest respect and mutual exchange. During certain handshakes I could actually feel Semayne's heart surge through into my hands. This shit was some of the most for real experience I've ever had. They have melded what has survived from ancient intact sustainable culture with the punk culture as a means to remain united, as a means to reclaim festival, as a means to express themselves, and as a means of d-i-y self empowerment and resistance. They have community gardens where they give neighborhood kids workshops on composting, they have an ecological restoration collective that works with Indian communities to clean up and ecologically safeguard their dwellings and infrastructure.

For anyone who hasn't been there and doesn't know what or who I'm talking about, I highly recommend checking it out. It's truly amazing. The experience honestly made me understand that every second of my life and everyone I'd had ever know was more shallow, plastic, and corrupt that I had ever imagined. If this seems dramatic, please contact to me if you want to get further into why I truly believe this and/or keep an eye out for the forthcoming video of this tour.

Cheers. Viva la cultura de anarcho-punk Mexicano!